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TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

VOL. II.—PART I.

LEICESTER:
PRINTED BY CROSSLEY AND CLARKE.
1866.

Price Three Shillings and Sixpence.

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

December 5th, 1860.

In accordance with the Resolution passed at the last Meeting of the Committee, a *Soirée* was held in the new Music Hall, Leicester, under the presidency of the Right Honorable Lord John Manners, M.P. The Hall was specially decorated, and upon long tables was arranged a fine collection of antiquities and works of art: the lower parts of the walls, too, were covered by architectural drawings, photographs, engravings, and paintings of local and general interest, above which was arranged a series of rubbings of Monumental Brasses, illustrative of the address to be delivered by Mr. Boutell later in the evening.

At seven o'clock the President took the chair, and said:

Ladies and gentlemen,

If it were expected that your Chairman on this occasion should deliver some kind of inaugural address on the subject of Architecture, and Archæology, I confess that I should have resolutely declined to occupy this chair to-night; for, much as I admire those studies, and greatly as I think they are calculated to promote great public objects, I am free to confess that a life mainly spent in S. Stephen's is little adapted to qualify one to obtain a pleased and attentive audience upon an occasion of this kind. But, if you will be good enough to look at the programme, you will see that, were I disposed to glance at the particular objects of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, I should be only poaching on the manor so ably occupied by Mr. Ordish. That being the case, I must ask, what is it your Chairman is expected to say in opening the proceedings of this evening? And, therefore, you will excuse me if I am exceedingly brief in making a few observa-

tions to fill up the time expressed in the programme between my taking the chair and the delivery of the first lecture—my office, I fear, being pretty much the same as that of the organ between the stated hour of Divine Service and its actual commencement. Therefore taking advantage of those few minutes, I may be permitted to make a few passing observations. We cannot but see the great and acknowledged improvement and the spread of architectural knowledge during the last two decades of our history: this I believe to result not from the operations and enquiries of societies such as that which has caused us to meet this evening, but I believe, on the contrary, that these Societies are but the product of a great and deep-seated improvement in architectural study and knowledge; and the conclusion I should form from this fact, if it be one, is that the position of those arts and those studies is a sound and a safe one—that it does not depend on a fictitious excitement, nor on any sudden opinion, but is the result of the deep-rooted conviction of intelligent and well-regulated minds. Another observation I should wish to make; it is that this development of archæological and architectural knowledge owes nothing whatever to the government of the country—differing from architecture and art in most continental countries. I remember shortly after I entered parliament, that the late Mr. Joseph Hume—who never erred on the side of extravagance, or on the side of Government grants—coming to me with a bundle of documents he had received from France, publications of that department of the State that has the care of the restoration and supervision of ancient public monuments in that country—for the purpose of endeavouring to interest the Government of England to take a somewhat similar course, and devote a sum to the repair and maintenance of the beautiful and interesting monuments of antiquity on the point of crumbling to decay. Mr. Hume was then the foremost member, indeed the chairman of a society, which had for its object the throwing open of our cathedrals to the people; but even in those days Mr. Hume made but little effect upon most of the members of the House of Commons, or upon the Government. But what is the state of the case now? By private zeal, and an improved state of knowledge throughout the country at large, the people have to a great extent remedied the evils of which Mr. Hume was complaining. Every year the House of Commons grants any sum, almost without question, which the executive government may ask for the maintenance or restoration of the buildings confided to the charge of Government in England, or in Scotland: and, as we all know, the cathedrals of the land are now devoted to the public as well as religious purposes to which they were dedicated. I may say, that one of my most pleasing duties when I presided over that department, was to prepare and arrange the necessary votes for the repair, or restoration, or improvement of those beautiful and interesting monuments of

ancient art, which are confided to the charge of the Board of Works; and I am bound to say that I never found any difficulty in inducing the House of Commons to give the necessary attention to those national monuments, as Carisbrooke Castle, the Tower of London, S. Andrew's, Glasgow Cathedral, or the palace of Linlithgow and other buildings, in Scotland more especially, which are placed under the care of that particular department of the State. In this, as in so many other cases, the action of parliament and the government has followed, rather than led the improved taste and knowledge of the country. It occurs to me, however, that there is one memorable exception to this gratifying rule, and that is, in the firm determination which has been evinced by the head of the present Government, not to sanction that remarkable change in public taste in matters of architecture, which your presence here this evening at this Architectural and Archæological Meeting in my opinion, clearly establishes. Lord Palmerston may be a very great reformer in other departments of the State, but I think it clear in architecture at any rate, he is one of the sturdiest anti-reformers this generation can boast of. If Lord Palmerston's determination is successful, we shall see one of the greatest public buildings of the country erected in a manner which no doubt, our ancestors a hundred years ago would have admired, but from which the more educated taste and knowledge of the country at the present time is revolting, if it has not already revolted. I should be sorry to take upon myself to speak in your name or in the name of any Architectural or Archæological Society, but while I am upon this subject I would innocently express an earnest hope that the members of the different architectural societies will give an expression of their views, be it favourable in the matter I am now indicating, or be it unfavourable, and so decide what shall be the style of the great pile of buildings which will have to be erected in the course of a few months for the reception of the Indian and Foreign departments of the Government, and so that we may have the satisfaction of knowing what is the deliberate opinion of these architectural societies, and which may, I think, be properly looked upon as the cultivated architectural taste of the present generation. Although, ladies and gentlemen, I have said that I looked upon these societies as the products of the improved architectural and archæological taste and knowledge of the present day, I am of opinion that these societies have rendered, and will render, service in many ways. Among those modes I should say that by removing erroneous views—by spreading throughout the districts to which they respectively belong, careful and minute accounts of the peculiarities of the district,—these societies are doing an enormous amount of good. It is not only that the architecture of Scotland differs from the architecture of England—it is not only that the architecture of Scotland and of England differs widely from Ireland,

but I believe in almost every county a peculiarity of material or construction, or both, is found, by those who take the pains to investigate. I think therefore that these local societies by spreading the knowledge of these local peculiarities throughout their respective districts, and showing how this knowledge can be applied to a practical purpose is effecting an infinite good. In church restoration—instead of seeing a church restored according to some preconceived idea, without any knowledge of the peculiarity of the district—we are almost certain to see the restoration made with the most minute attention to those peculiar features which characterize the architecture of the time, and the district in which that church is placed. For an illustration of this, we need not go far from this room. I refer to the perfect and beautiful work of restoration of S. Mary's Church—which I had the pleasure of visiting a few days since, and where the most minute attention has been paid to every local feature that characterizes that important building. Such then being some of the views and objects of these societies, I rejoice that Leicester possesses one of them, supported in the satisfactory manner in which the Society is supported. I rejoice that the members of this Society thought fit to call a meeting on this occasion, and would remind them of the old Horatian maxim—

> "Segnus viritant animos demissa per aurem
> Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus—"

and suggest they should act upon it; and I might trouble each gentleman to whisper into the ear of his fair neighbour a translation of that somewhat hackneyed phrase. At the bi-monthly meetings of the Society, I am informed there has been a considerable attendance and great interest manifested during the last two seasons, and at which models and objects of art are exhibited in the same way as they have been this evening. I hope, therefore, if there are any gentlemen present who have not attended those meetings they may be induced to do so for the future. I think it would be strange indeed in such a county as Leicester, and in a town like Leicester, that a society like the present should not be well supported, for I cannot conceive a county more curious or possessing more interesting remains for architectural or archæological study. Perhaps it would be going too far to say that in this very town we may find specimens of every style of architecture, from the days of its foundation by King Lear, through those days when Leicester paid a tribute of fifteen sextaries of honey to the Plantagenet kings, down to the present time, when we see such a grand development of the glories of red brick. But if that be an exaggeration, we may say that we have every style of acknowledged architecture which England can boast of. Ladies and gentlemen, I have taken the chair on the present occasion with much pleasure, but I am

afraid in this desultory manner I have occupied more of your time than I have been justified in doing. I have had the greatest possible pleasure in taking the chair, and I beg to express my full appreciation of the Society and its objects.

The noble Chairman then called upon the Rev. Charles Boutell, M.A., to deliver his lecture on

MEDIÆVAL COSTUME AS ILLUSTRATED BY MONUMENTAL BRASSES.

The speaker commenced by a reference to the subject of monumental remains in general, and brasses in particular. The metal of which they were composed was not, however, strictly brass, but a kind of bronze, and much harder. They first appeared in this country about the year 1200. The devices upon them were always engraved, and sometimes colour was employed, and so nearly approaching to enamel that it might with propriety be so called. The hardness of the metal, and the fact of the designs being engraved, made them very durable. The value of the designs of course depended on the ability of the artist who originally conceived them, and on the manipulative skill of the workman who carried out the design. For the most part they were good as works of art, more especially before the year 1430, the art of outline drawing being then thoroughly understood and appreciated. The designs were also invariably faithful in regard to costume and other accessories, not of the individual commemorated, but of the period when the work was executed. On knowing, therefore, the date of a brass, the most absolute reliance might be placed on its representations of costume, armour, &c. After the date named, monumental art in this country began to decline.

The study of these brasses had been of great advantage to art. Our historians and artists had made great mistakes in consequence of their ignorance of mediæval armour and costume; even Sir Walter Scott, in "Ivanhoe" had made very serious mistakes in consequence of this ignorance. It was not true, for example, that there was any authority for speaking of plumed helmets and other matters, which made a very pretty picture, but which were unfortunately not correct. The designs on the brasses for the most part represented not extravagant and eccentric, but the most ordinary fashions of their respective times, and hence their especial value as indicating costume with exactitude. The peculiar richness of this country in military brasses was adverted to, and the lecturer regretted that a national collection of them had never been formed at the public expense.

He proceeded to illustrate his remarks by reference to the

rubbings shown, pointing out how striking changes in armour in short intervals, even of ten years, were unfailingly indicated. In remarking upon the ecclesiastical brasses, of which rubbings were exhibited, the lecturer pointed out the desirableness of studying the artistic character of brasses, the workmanship of which was often as strongly marked and as easily recognisable as the works of well known engravers. The brasses representing ladies were somewhat remarkable as indicating that some portions of female dress of the present day had been taken from them. This was particularly true of the head-dress, consisting of nets precisely such as were now worn, and of the whole race of jackets.

In conclusion, he observed, that no portion of archæology could be more easily studied than brasses, from the abundance in which they were found, and the ease with which rubbings might be obtained.

At the conclusion of Mr. Boutell's lecture, coffee and refreshments were served. Music was furnished by the Militia Band, under Herr Ptacek.

Mr. Ordish read, in the course of the evening, a Paper

ON THE PURPOSES OF ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

After a few opening observations Mr. Ordish said:

The Architectural and Archæological Societies of the kingdom, of which that of Leicester is an integral part, are but of recent date, generally established about twenty years back, chiefly by the clergy of our churches and colleges, with other literati, for the resuscitation of the knowledge of ecclesiastical architecture, which had for the preceding two centuries fallen into dissuetude, but more especially thereby to re-enforce the diffusion of knowledge, and impulse given to church and school enlargement, and general education. They were also intended to investigate and give a reasonable solution for those ritual forms and ceremonies which preexisted amongst us, so as to perpetuate and enjoy in a higher degree those Institutions, those privileges which our forefathers, under the Henrys, the Edwards, Mary and Elizabeth handed down through so many disasters. They aspire to link the beautiful with the spiritual; to impart into Christian worship a profound sympathy with the grace of nature, redeeming superstition.

In the realization of these its primary labours, a wider field developes itself, encircling ramifications of every day life; entering into the pastimes, occupations, and mental pleasures of the people during ancient days, and to those now so amply diffused

amongst ourselves, and by comparison contributing to their enjoyment; it is for this reason our Society appears before you this evening; and desires to enlist your co-operation; and, if in creating, we live, and as the "good men do is often buried with their bones," the study of architecture preeminently recommends itself, for what creative power defies time so long?

But the study of architecture and archæology is not merely interesting to those who love it as an art, but it is an evidence to which the historian can turn for the character of all ages. . . . . If you desire to study its especial history, British history, you may appeal with confidence for information to its bastions and bulwarks of the sea; to its walls, churches, and colleges which cover it; or to those incomprehensible archæological researches amid prairie lands and cities buried in the West; revealing those perceptions of the spirit and feelings of the hearts and minds of those who raised them; for generally speaking we cannot arrive at any better knowledge of people separated from us by so long an interval of ages, than by an examination of their buildings, tombs, &c., &c.

Their temples (we cannot learn from books alone) speak to us of their faith and forms and objects of worship—their palaces and courts, of their civil institutions and domestic life—their triumphal arches, of their love of country, and sometimes unrestrained ambition—their coloseums and amphitheatres of their sports and pastimes; in all of which you may find something, too, worthy of imitation. Moreover, its study will incite to travel and health and rest from strife, the lessening of pride, and will give mathematical information on citadels for defence (though mud and man's resolution have much simplified the science here); inform you how to throw bridges over torrents and mountain defiles; how to bring refreshing streams from distant mountains and lakes, for the health and welfare of the living, and how to raise worthy monuments to the dead, nationally so tardy in accomplishment.

The study of architecture has always, amongst civilized nations, been deemed one of the noblest occupations of the people, and may in its utilitarian sense apply to the adjusting and putting together pieces of an edifice having many ramifications, and has for its accomplishments—first, utility; second, light, or the adorning and illuminating all edifices for whatsoever use, and contributes to health and pleasure, and requires no specious or metaphysical reasoning to pervert.

The study of archæology, or the description of ancient things, is adopted as a science more with reference to the analysis and history of the constituents of architectural research, and encircles the human race and language, and is presumed to have had its origin in the natural cravings of the mind to comprehend and decipher the mysterious. It comprises the following tribu-

taries, on which I may say a few words, being the matter-of-fact consideration of the Society, and in which nomenclature almost all are more or less interested, viz., sculpture, painting, colour, music, decorative skill, furniture, costume. Honest architecture redeems our towns from dreariness and ugliness, giving tone and cheerfulness and beauty, making it worthy of a civilized age in which we live ; in short, renders every object about our dwellings, however humble their purpose, a source of pleasure, and our habitations themselves delightful to ourselves and others. It is necessary in order to effect this, and truly learn ourselves, to enter upon its study with minds free from hastily-formed opinions and unfettered by prejudice, to be willing to admit excellence *wherever* it exists, to perceive a beauty *wherever* it is to be found, as well as detect the rude and meretricious, recollecting in our examination of different characters of work, that their forms were not arbitrary or accidental, that wherever the manner of construction is suitable to the material, wherever the style corresponds with the climate, and is adapted to the circumstances, sentiments, and manners of the nation and of the age, wherever it constitutes in its principles, forms, and in its details and ornaments an harmonious whole (rejecting everything inconsistent with and foreign to itself), there may be found instruction. We have before us for our familiar the wide world, and as pretensions to finality are as repulsive in art as in domestic legislation, we must beware of the rings which when rivetted become chains to bind and enslave. Then may we roam over its mountains, as well as gardens, and participate in that republican life which braces the thews and sinews of the body, shewing you amid clouds and long-drawn shadows that the elements of all great and beautiful work is constituted of simplicity, combined with boldness of outline, composition, grouping, daring contrasts in form, structure, colour, and pervading all, that expression of repose, to realize which is the greatest charm, and which the greatest of painters, sculptors, and musicians desire to emulate in their works—indeed, the consummation of the creative work was rest. Again,

"Be silent: for He who never rested—rests."

To expound the laws which should guide us after these attainments would exceed the limits of my time; but we are informed "that the harmonic law of nature by which the art, senses of hearing and seeing are governed, was either originally discovered by that great philosopher Pythagoras, who existed upwards of five hundred years before the Christian era, or a knowledge of it was obtained by him about that period from Egyptian or Chaldean priests ; they were not written, but his doctrine regarding beauty and its philosophy are well known to be, that he considered *numbers* as the essence and principle of all things, and he attri-

buted to them a real and distinct existence, so that in his view they were the elements out of which the universe was constructed, and to which it owed its beauty. He amongst other things discovered the numerical relation of sounds on a single string, and taught that everything owes its existence to harmony." How far these laws may eliminate the studies of young minds is beyond my reach, but I trust may be excused the following commenta:— Music was introduced in this country by the early Christians, used for intoning, next chanting, and became a science in the thirteenth century, and whether introduced in the battle field or at prayer, is always welcome, and our Society would desire its better and general adaptation to church service, in lieu of the quaint performances of general musicians.

Of colour, an eminent professor writes:—

"If a tithe only of the weary hours passed in learning by heart the names of all the Roman consuls were devoted to master the principles of colour, new sources of enjoyment and utility would be opened to the student that throughout life would be ever fresh and constantly occurrent. Household cares after the honeymoon throw many little lightly-practised studies into obscurity, while skill in polichromy might be rendered available to heighten all the calm enjoyments of wedded life."

I hardly dare attempt any exposition of modern costume, for within the memory of many of us we have so passed from one extreme to another, from high waists that come under the arms, to low waists that come below the hips; from sleeves so tight and narrow as to preclude lifting up the arm, to balloon sleeves swollen out by means of feather pillows; from dresses so scanty as to impede movement, to others so ample as to cover the ground, and half a dozen full-sized men could stand on, that I must refer you to works more especially devoted thereto.

Of the sculptor our hopes are that his labours (now revived) may increase and multiply in him a "beloved existence." Of sculptural decoration we think its architectural conventionalities might be improved by pleasing associations with the oak, the thorn, the maple, the clover, the firn, and the variety of flowers and forms indigenous; in the same way the Egyptians took for their type the papyrus and lotus of the Nile; the Hebrew the pomegranate and almond; the Greek the honeysuckle; the Roman the acanthus and laurel.

On the subject of furniture. We have no desire that it should be adapted to women only kept in a state of semi-oriental seclusion, or that they should sleep on litters in a kitchen, that the floor should be strewn with rushes, or that their linen and bedding should be limited to one bolster worth "twopence," and a rug and two sheets valued in old manor house inventories at tenpence; nevertheless, we submit whether a graft of the ancient honest

simplicity and utility might not advantageously be made on the modern restless wearisome superfluities of the age.

We also submit that in dress, and hangings, and the decorations of our dwellings, we should not be confined to flash economies, though created by branches of mechanical skill manufactured by the mile, supplying the place and mocking the semblance of more solid and real enrichment, or to precious materials reproduced by the brush and varnish pot. Thus the papering and hollow walls which seem to have usurped undivided dominion, should not be perpetuated *ad infinitum*, with all the disgust and contempt incident to recurring change and fashion, and we ask whether reverence for home without pretension has not a greater charm, lends not a grace, has not a more ennobling affection, even to those who hardly can dress gaily, or give substantial dinners on solid mahogany.

We suggest whether the study of these bygone arts, the disinterring of such like vestiges (the object of our Society) may not be an efficient help towards the removal of the film which steals over the sense, and towards clearly discerning how to appropriate the present endless productions of nature and art to their legitimate use.

Lastly: our Society has more than ordinary interest in the extension and development of ecclesiastical architecture, identifying itself with, and desiring to conserve all those forms and characteristics which have been handed down to us as a sacred inheritance, and with which we have so many personal, perhaps dear associations; tomorrow we hope to evince the same by depositing the foundation stone of another structure to an ecclesiastical establishment, whose nobility consists in its freedom; indeed in this and throughout all the provinces of art there must be freedom to secure progress. Studentship ceases but with life. ..... We therefore commend its study and objects to your further consideration, desiring you to avoid the bigotry of the antiquarian, and reminding you that the rattle of all dry bones is not music.

To any of you who are looking to the incipent changes for the origin of a new and better order of things, and who think that improvements in civilized life rise on the ruins of institutions once deemed models of perfection, we would remind them of ancient mutations and destruction of cities of which commerce laid the foundations, and built the walls now laid low; and such retrospect may at least instruct them what it is yields a blessing, and what it is brings a curse.

The President announced that the next Paper was by Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. That gentleman was, he regretted to say, seriously ill, an announcement which must be received with

regret in any archæological meeting, but more especially in Leicestershire. His Paper would be read by the Rev. J. H. Hill.

That gentleman undertook that office, reading as follows:

THE HEYRICKE LETTERS, ILLUSTRATING THE STATE OF LEICESTER IN THE REIGNS OF ELIZABETH AND JAMES THE FIRST.

All who have studied the history of Leicestershire are aware how large an amount of illustration it has received from the family papers preserved at Beaumanor. These valuable documents owe their preservation to certain old chests, which once belonged to Sir William Heyricke, in virtue of his office as a teller of the Exchequer in the reign of James the First; and they principally consist of papers accumulated during the long life of that eminent man, but intermixed with others both of an earlier and a later date. Among these interesting memorials of past ages there are many letters which were written from this town in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, during which several members of the Heyricke family were flourishing inhabitants of Leicester; and, as the most prominent in interest of the whole, are to be regarded those of Alderman Robert Heyricke, an elder brother of Sir William,—not only from their containing the particulars of various remarkable local occurrences, but also from their offering a field rich in materials that may elucidate the state of society at that period, and the habits and usages then prevalent in a midland provincial town. Though considerable extracts from this series of letters were published by my grandfather in the History of Leicestershire, yet I was led, on their perusal, to express my opinion that they would reward a closer examination—(an opinion communicated to our friend Mr. James Thompson, the living historian of your town, who has consequently requested me to give you some specimens of their contents,)—and, with the permission of Mr. Perry-Herrick, I have much pleasure in now proceeding to do so.

Time is perpetually deepening the shadows of the past, and rendering its former features more and more obscure. Manners, customs, and fashions are continually undergoing changes, individually small, and consequently unheeded and unrecorded on their occurrence, but which gradually remodel not only the external face of society, but also its inner machinery, and the very tone and spirit of its schemes and speculations.

We cannot, therefore, wonder at the contrasts which are presented to our view after the oft-repeated and incalculable changes of two centuries and a half. When we turn from the England of Queen Victoria to the England of James the First, we revert to

times not merely before the electric telegraph, before the railroad, before the steam engine, before gas, before paved streets, and other appliances of comparatively modern date, but before the newspaper, before the bank, before the general post, before the stage coach, and even before the stocking-frame. And yet the Englishman of that day, and the Leicester man as much as his contemporaries, was eager for news, and very sensitive to any rumour of mischief from the Pope or Spain; he required money-dealers for the transactions of trade; he had correspondence with the metropolis and other towns; and was himself a traveller to a considerable extent, though with the measured steps and slow that were an exigence of his age. It is therefore not only strange to our notions, but in many respects instructive, to learn how these several operations were then effected; and on these points the letters of Robert Heyricke will supply us with various interesting particulars.

Leicester was not then a town of any considerable trade, nor of a large population. It had lost its ancient importance as a frequent residence of the junior branch of the royal house, when the Dukes of Lancaster maintained their princely household within—or rather just without—its walls. It had lost the influence of its Abbey, in which the fallen Wolsey breathed his last, and of its other religious foundations. It had suffered greatly from desolating pestilence and the oft-recurring plague. Its dimensions and general aspect have been well represented in the lithographic print appended by Mr. Thompson to his History of Leicester,—derived from the map or plan made by John Speed about the year 1600, but corrected and adjusted by modern measurements. The town had been reported by commissioners of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1587 to be in great decay, when it was said that thirty parishes were reduced to six, and four-and-twenty wards to ten.*

As to trade, Leicester was at that day very far distant from even the dawn of its modern career of commercial prosperity. It was indeed the county town, and the centre of a rich pastoral district. The wool of the surrounding flocks was usually brought to its market, and a wool-hall had been erected in the reign of Elizabeth; but little of this valuable product was wrought within the town. Efforts had been made from time to time to establish the manufacture of cloth, particularly that kind called kersey,† but with small success. In 1599, the mayor and burgesses, in an abject epistle to the Earl of Huntingdon, declare, "We have no clothing nor other exercises to maintain our poor, nor are we able to set up any."‡

Of hosiery, which a century later became the staple manufacture of this district, there was certainly a little carried on, but the par-

* Thompson, pp. 282, 284. † Nichols, i. 398, 399; Thompson, pp. 255, 265.
‡ Thompson, p. 303.

ticulars of its history are scanty and obscure. We read in Mr. Thompson's history of the town,* that in the year 1597 the mayor and the burgesses, by the appointment of the Earl of Huntingdon, lent to Thomas Moseley, a townsman, the sum of £10., to set poor children at work in the knitting of Jersey stockings; and in a paper† preserved at Beaumanor—and which I think was probably placed in the hands of Sir William Heyricke when he was burgess in Parliament for the borough, it is stated that (in the reign of James I.) the hosiers of Leicester were compelled by some officers of Blackwall Hall (in London) to pay twopence on every score of stockings for hallage, unless they would take their stockings to the hall, there to be sold. They were also at composition with the Duke of Lennox for ulnage, and paid yearly to the Duke's collectors for the same.

Now, although the stocking-frame is usually stated to have been invented by William Lee so early as 1589, yet, as he is also related to have left England, and to have been working at Rouen until after the death of Henri IV. in 1610, I think it perfectly certain that the frame was not at that period in use at Leicester; and all the stockings that were then made, other than such as were cut out of pieces of cloth or linen (which had hitherto been the way of making hose) were knit by the hand.

In 1578 Mary Erycke writes from Leicester to her son William: "Furthermore, I have sent you a pair of knit hose, and a pair of knit Jersey gloves. I would have you send me word how they serve you; for if the gloves be too little for you, you should give them to one of your brother Hawes's children, and I would send you another pair."

There is a passage in one of the letters of Robert Heyricke, written in 1594, which is remarkable for the high value then set upon worsted hose: "I have sent up by Henry White this bringer 40 pair of good worsted hose, tied together in four bunches, which I pray you will sell for me for 12 li. or else lay them up in your press. I cannot afford them for less." This is the only allusion to hosiery in Robert Heyricke's letters; but in another letter addressed to William Heyricke at a still earlier date, on the 6th of March, 1582, and written from Leicester by Richard Hudson, there is a curious passage on this subject, which I think will amuse you if I extract it at length: "The cause of my writing unto you at this time is to let you understand that I have sent you the pair of knit stockens which you sent for by Richard Penne, and I have received a crown of him for them: they did cost five shillings at

* Thompson, p. 299.

† Inserted in the *Annals of Leicester*, in the "History of Leicestershire," vol. i. p. 425, under the year 1613; but the original bears no date. The word "hallage" is there misprinted *ballage;* and again in Thompson's "History of Leicester," 1849, p. 343.

Doncaster"—(so that they were made far from Leicester, unless, having been made in this county, they were taken to Doncaster fair)—"and if you do not like them of the price, I pray you to get them coloured of the same colour as the stockens are which you had on your legs when I was with you,—I take it they were a murrey, and I will pay you for them, and will send you your five shillings again. Moreover, friend William Erycke, I have a pair of worsted stockens, the legs of them I pray you to get me a purse, a large one, made of them, with a lock ring, and I will pay you for it. I would have the fringe that shall go about it to be of silk."

This letter, I fear, will not have given you a very high estimate of the manufacturing resources of Leicester in the reign of Elizabeth. The town was not then one in which large fortunes were made by manufactures or trade. Robert Heyricke himself, though he had enjoyed a long and prosperous career, testifies to this circumstance in a remarkable passage of one of his latest letters. He is speaking of the settlement in marriage of one of his daughters, and is balancing the advantages between her alliance to a country gentleman (one of the Babingtons), or to a "merchant, a goldsmith, or any good tradesman" of the City. "You know (he writes) that all the good fortunes of our kinred came only by my mother's sister being placed in London; and I thank God that your placing there hath not only been your own preferment, but, by God's great blessing to you, you have been a great mean for the advancement of others. You know how poor and beggarly the country is, and that those who do live best, live nothing like to citizens of London, though they be not of the richest sort."

In this passage we have brought to our notice a remarkable change in the condition of London,—so far as the city is concerned. It was then not only a mine of wealth for the industrious and enterprising; it was full of life, luxury, and enjoyment; it is now a mere workshop for those who take their acquisitions to be enjoyed elsewhere.

But I proceed to those other contrasts between our own times and those of the Heyricke letters to which I before alluded; and none can possibly be greater than that which the two periods present in the matter of public news. Where every day now issues forth throughout the country, in thousands of copies, its hundred sheets of varied and accurate intelligence, there was then nothing but the occasional pamphlet, such as that which described "the fearful and heavy news of the accident at Paris Gardens," of which a copy was sent by William Heyricke to his father in 1582. In the next year the young man transmitted, in manuscript, a copy of a letter sent to the Queen from the Great Turk; in return for which his father communicated one that had come to her Majesty from the King of Barbary. In other letters we read of books of occasional sermons, or those of my lord mayor's show, but of

nothing of greater importance; except that one Christmas Sir William Heyricke is thanked by his brother for the books sent in his last letter, "and (he writes) I hope the reading of them will do many good,"—from which expression it may be supposed that they were of the nature of religious tracts.

In any form, very little public news seems to have reached the good town of Leicester. Occasionally, Sir William appears to have informed his brother of the placing and shifting of persons in high office, but such intelligence excited but little interest in the Leicester corporation: "for my part (says Mr. Mayor) I shall be content, do what they will." The matters which more profoundly agitated the public mind consisted of rumours chiefly remarkable for their false or exaggerated complexion.

Thus, when Henry Prince of Wales died in 1612, the popular report appears to have added that the King was dead also, or that something still more awful had occurred. The alderman's anxiety to hear from his brother had been greater than usual, "for here hath been such heavy news, that when we should have been merry with Mr. Mayor at his feast, we could not tell whether better to feast or fast: but, God be praised! now we hear it is not so ill as we then heard it, but great loss. If it had been the Lord's will to have appointed him life, it had been great comfort to us all, and great stay to the kingdom; but the Lord's will be done!"

The Gunpowder Treason of seven years before, when both King and Prince were to have been destroyed at a blow, had perhaps suggested this false alarm; but the dread which seems most frequently to have haunted the good Protestants of that day, was that of Popish invasion, as in September 1614—

"On Monday last here was such a rumour of a great army gathered together by the Pope, the Cardinals, the Prelates and Clergy, the King of Spain and the Emperor, to the value of 80,000 horse and foot, and that they were come into the Low Countries, and would shortly be here, that there was many in great fear, till some of our neighbours came from London, and brought somewhat better news. By your next I pray you certify us somewhat of the truth of the matter."

Again, in November 1615:—

"Here is such diversity of news, by such as come from London, as I can give credit to none almost, unless I have it under your hand. Here is news that my Lord of Northampton, who it was said died here in England, is now living in Spain. Here is such talk of a great banquet that should come from Spain, full of bad dishes, and to a most vile intent, that, if it may be true, there is no doubt dangerous plots devised by enemies from home; the Lord deliver his Majesty and all his, and all others that fear the Lord! It is said also that at that time this banquet should work its effect,

Spinola should bring in 2,000 strong, and at his coming should burn the King's ships in the havens, which God forbid!"

On questions of general politics the alderman says absolutely nothing, but on a change of municipal policy upon the accession of a new mayor of Leicester, there is the following amusing passage:—"We have ventured on Mr. Bonnet for this year to come; and, though Mr. Manbye hath striven this year to-reform strong ale, yet Mr. Bonnet saith it is a good refreshing to a poor man to have a cup of strong drink, though he have but little meat, and for his part he will not deprive them of it, but if he meet them at George Brook's he will take part with them, say against it this year they that will."

We will next notice what were the facilities for Written Correspondence. Though some posts had been established for the service of the government, they were not yet available for private persons. The usual mode of communication between Leicester and the metropolis was by carriers, of whom there seem to have been two in constant employment. But the townsmen were frequently making journeys to London, and did not start without offering their services to their friends and neighbours; and it was not yet illegal for them to carry letters; so that correspondence might be frequent, if not regular, or entirely free from mishaps and miscarriages. One of the alderman's letters was to have been carried by one Blincorn, a workman, but, as the alderman was out of doors, the man was fain to lose the carriage of it (for which therefore he would have been paid), and it was afterwards taken by "a pottycarry of our town: his name is Henshaw." A letter was sometimes carried along the road beyond its destination: "your last letter I understand you sent by Sir Oliver Cromwell, but he forgetting it when he lay at the Angel, took it with him Northward, I do not know how far, and yesterday he sent it back by Mr. Harlow, who brought it to me."

The majority of travellers performed their journeys on foot. At the end of October, in 1614, Francis, the cook of Beaumanor, had a pitiful journey: he was eight days coming from London to Leicester. Those who could afford a horse travelled on horseback, and there are many passages respecting the provision of horses for Sir William by his brother, when the former was preparing to make his annual visit to Leicestershire. Robert Heyricke prided himself on his skill in horseflesh, and on one occasion he recommends to his brother "a very pretty gelding, as well-paced and easy-going as may be, only six years old, well made and clean of his legs, milk-white, with some small spots on him, his price £10.; or, if you will have him whilst he is unsold, he shall be sent you up to bring you down, and if you like not of his price, you must give Fullwood 10s. for his journey, and deliver him safe again." This passage shows the cost of hiring a horse for the journey to

and from London. At another time the alderman writes, "This is a very ill place for to hire a horse in. I am sure I have sent to twenty several places, to such as I did hear were likely to have to let for a journey; but amongst all the butchers, and others, that were likeliest to do the feat, I could get but one, and he with such covenants that if he do not return within ten days, then 12d. a day —no less, for every day that he tarries beside."

When people became too infirm, or otherwise unable, to ride on horseback, there was an end to their travelling. Such was the case with Robert Heyricke himself when he grew unwieldly in his old age. He tells his brother, "I long to see you, and to see you here; for I think I shall never desire to go to London to see any such sights as heretofore, and by your means, I have often seen. I feel myself very unapt to ride." In answer to this Sir William Heyricke appears to have suggested the resource of a caroche, a luxury then unknown in Leicester, unless when the king or some man of high rank passed through the town; but it offered a mode of travel so untried to the Leicester alderman, that he did not accept the proffered kindness without hesitation. "The last branch of your letter speaketh of a new caroche, which you say will carry me very easy when I am weary of my horse; but I must first make trial here by some short journey, for I dare not make trial of so long a circuit."

If such were the difficulties attendant upon personal locomotion, before the days of railroads or stage-coaches, those connected with the transmission of money were still more embarrassing. It was extremely hazardous to send it along the road, for the bearers were very likely to meet with robbers or cozeners, either those who would despoil them by violence on the way, or cheat them when gambling at the inns. The Leicester alderman was generally too wary to incur such risk, but it was often with much trouble that he made his remittances in security. Sir William Heyricke and his brother, the goldsmith in London and the ironmonger at Leicester, were in fact bankers, though that designation was then unknown, and it was in transacting business resembling that which was performed by the modern banker that they both very largely increased their fortunes; but it is strange to observe the difficulties which frequently attended their primitive operations in banking. On the 5th of November, 1613, Robert writes, "Well! I have spoke and sent to all that be likely in the market this day, and cannot find one to return (*i.e.* to London) until the 17th of this present." Again, on the 26th April, 1616, "I have such ado to return any money up, but they will have all before hand or else no bargain; and I cannot tell certainly their soundness, which makes me quake when I do pay them, and yet I am desirous to return it with what speed I may." The best resource lay in the cattle dealers, who, having sold their beasts in London, were glad to leave their money

safe in Cheapside, and take it again at Leicester; but their movements were irregular, and often dependant on the great fairs in the country, which influenced both the periods of their travelling and the roads they took. The alderman sometimes asked his brother to take up money in Smithfield, or "to try the butchers in Eastcheap, or elsewhere, if any of them that come down to Rowell fair will leave you 150li. or what you can receive by them; for I cannot return any, but many come to me of the other side, to leave money with me to have it in London."

In connection with this subject may be noticed another monetary difficulty, which exhibited itself at a somewhat earlier date. At the time when William Heyricke was first settled in London he was repeatedly required to transmit small change to Leicester, where it was obviously very deficient, and its absence very inadequately supplied by the worthless tokens* that traders then sometimes coined for themselves. On the 6th of March, 1582, Richard Hudson writes to him, "I pray you, good William, to send me 10s. in pence and two-pennies, if you can get them, and I will send you money for them." On the 8th of the same month his father thanks him for 20s. sent in new half-groats; and also for 20s. in pence and half-pence;† and on the 16th his brother John writes, "My father gives you most hearty thanks for the twopennies and the halfpence that you sent him: he sent you 20s. for them by Richard Penn." On the 31st of July his father thanks him for sending pence and halfpence; "they have done us great pleasure, for small money is yet scant in the country: your sister Hawes had sent half-a-crown's worth." And on the 3rd of August following, John writes again, "My father and mother gives you thanks for the single money you sent him, and he hath sent you money for them by John Saunders."

Whilst coin was thus comparatively scarce, we read of abundance of good cheer, and it was very usual to make presents of provisions and luxuries for the table. From Leicester were sent flicks or flitches of bacon, shields of brawn, cheeses frequently, and on one occasion five dozen of fieldfares, to be distributed among friends in the city. From London were sent—a good keg of fresh sturgeon,

* The great want of halfpence and farthings impelled the almost general use, among alehouse-keepers, chandlers, grocers, vintners, and other traders, of private tokens of lead, tin, latten, and it is said of leather. There were frequent and well-founded complaints that their circulation was derogatory of the Queen's princely dignity and honour, and occasioned continual loss to the poor, since for these tokens commodities could only be obtained of the parties by whom they were issued; whilst their repayment in silver coin was an expectation very unlikely to be satisfied. *(Introduction by J. H. Burn, to the Catalogue of the Cabinet of Tokens presented to the Corporation of London, by Henry B. H. Beaufoy, Esq.)*

† These halfpence, as well as the pennies and two-pences or half-groats, were of silver. They were first issued in 1582, and weighed only four grains. There had been previously, between the years 1561 and 1579, occasional issues of three-farthing pieces, also of silver.

pomegranates, and a box of marmalade, and occasionally a sugar-loaf. But at Christmas Sir William Heyricke was always bountiful in despatching a large cargo of grocery and spices, which was welcomed with hearty and uproarious gratitude. The alderman's account of his family's demonstrations in this respect on S. Stephen's day (the morrow of Christmas) in the year 1614, is amusing. He tells his brother that his last letter had been "more welcome than all the music we have had since Christmas, and yet we have had pretty store both of our own and other; and the same day we were busy with holding up hands and spoons to you, out of porridge and pyes, in the remembrance of your great liberality of fruit and spice, which God send you long life to continue, for of that day we have not missed any S. Stephen this 47 year to have as many guests as my house would hold, I thank God for it."

This old custom of holding up hands and spoons is again mentioned at Christmas, 1616: "This day (he is writing upon another S. Stephen's) I have had thirty or near at dinner, and with wine and sugar, and hands held up so high as we could, we remembered Wood Street; and though we can do no more, yet in our prayers, in our spoons, and in our cups, we do not forget you when time serves."

Such were some of the holiday and everyday occupations of the townsfolk of Leicester in the reign of James the First. I have confined myself to general topics: as, to enter into the particular matters which form the main subjects of the letters would have occupied too much of your attention. I will only, in conclusion, briefly enumerate as among the more important of them—the king's visit to Leicester in the year 1614, the election of burgesses to parliament in the same year, the incorporation of the Newarke Hospital, the purchase of the Newarke Grange by the corporation from Sir Thomas Smith, their proposed sale of the Newarke Mills, negociations for the purchase of estates at Wanlip, Sweepston, and various other places, and for procuring church preferment for Tobias Heyricke the alderman's son, negociations for proposed marriages of the daughters of both the brothers—to Ashby of Quenby, Babington of Cossington, and other parties, the extraordinary trials for witchcraft at the assizes, and an equally remarkable account of open-air preaching set on foot on the suggestion of Sir William Heyricke, for the benefit of the Newarke Hospital. In addition to these incidental matters of business, there are constant reports from Beaumanor respecting the management of that estate and Sir William Heyricke's rights in the adjacent forest, with some curious details on the planting of trees and agricultural matters, and on the sports of the field as then practised.

Altogether, in my opinion, it would be difficult to find, either in print or still in manuscript, a more interesting series of domestic correspondence than this of Robert Heyricke the old alderman of

Leicester and thrice mayor thereof. He always writes to his brother with the warmest affection, combined with an evident respect for one who had become a London citizen, a knight, and a courtier; but at the same time he discusses every subject as it arises with perfect freedom and familiarity,—"as though (he writes on one occasion) I was walking with you at Beaumanor," or (at another time) "as though I was walking with you in Paul's, a turn and a turn." His letters are continued until within a year of his death, which occurred in 1618, at the age of seventy-eight. You have his monumental stone still remaining in S. Martin's church, and his portrait in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall.

Mr. James Thompson next read a Paper intituled

ROMAN LEICESTER, AS ILLUSTRATED BY RECENT DISCOVERIES.

From fourteen hundred to eighteen hundred years ago, a populous town was standing on the site which modern Leicester occupies. In its origin nearly coeval with the establishment of the Christian faith among mankind, it existed during the reigns of those celebrated emperors with whose names every schoolboy in Europe is familiar. At first merely a military encampment, by degrees it became an important city or station. Being formed in the midst of a native tribe called the Coritani (or as some scholars name them, the Coritavi), and designated by the Romans Ratæ, it was known to that people as the Ratæ of the Coritavi.

The researches of military and other antiquaries, and the remains which have from time to time been discovered, enable us to infer with tolerable certainty, that the camp at Ratæ was designed on the plan of castrametation invented by Polybius, made use of up to and before the time of Julius Agricola. It was a parallelogram in outline, many acres in extent, and capable of accommodating two imperial legions, numbering together from 10,000 to 15,000 men, including infantry, cavalry, and others.

Ratæ soon became one of the principal places in the island, and through it one or two of the great roads passed, connecting it north and south, east and west, with other populous centres of internal commerce and local government. After the custom of the age, it appears to have been fortified, being surrounded by high and thick walls, and entered by gates, facing the points of the compass.

Within the walls stood public edifices—the residence of the governor, the court-house, the temple, the bath, the circus, and the theatre—and many private mansions. In all the latter were numerous apartments. The floors of the principal of these were covered with tesselated pavements, composed of designs carefully

executed and gracefully arranged. Sometimes the subjects were mythological (as in the case of the pavement now preserved in our museum); at others they exhibited floral and mathematical patterns (as in the case of the pavement in Jewrywall Street). Beneath the floors were low chambers, called "hypocausts," by means of which the apartments above were warmed. The walls were covered with plaster, whereon were painted in fresco and distemper, designs far superior to many of the bewildering and tasteless patterns of the modern paperhanger—designs incomparable for their chaste and rich effect; the art of wall-painting possessed by the ancient house-decorator having decayed, and being now almost unknown. And these rooms, thus ornamented, were lighted, it is believed, by glazed windows in the daytime, and by oil-lamps in the dark hours. On the tables at which the inhabitants dined, were set jars and vessels of elegant shapes and proportions, made of glass and earthenware. At their banquets they drank rare wines, and they ate the delicacies found in the river and the forest, and by the sea-shore. On tablets covered with a coating of wax they wrote with pointed implements the messages forwarded to intimates at a distance.

In their leisure, they frequented the amphitheatre, the bath, and the tavern. They periodically sacrificed at the temples of the gods in whom they believed. When they offended the laws of the empire, or disputed with a fellow-citizen the right to property, they attended in the Basilica of Ratæ before the local administrator. When they died, they were buried in a suburban cemetery, and over their remains were placed tablets on which hope breathed its fond prayer, and love sobbed its sad farewells. In short, for four hundred years the Roman or Roman British inhabitants of this locality lived a civilized life on the very site over which we walk daily, though time has covered it with a thick carpet of earth, through which the stifled voice of antiquity is only occasionally audible in mysterious and subdued accents. It is one of the objects of archæology to interpret these, and I am making the attempt to do so this evening.

In fulfilment of this purpose, it is necessary to explain that within the last few months the laying down of culverts in the streets of Leicester has been carried on extensively, in completion of the scheme adopted by the local authorities for the drainage of the town. The lines of trenching have been along those streets where the local antiquary would look with great expectation for discoveries—for example, along the Southgate Street and the Highcross Street, and the streets passing at right angles by the Jewry Wall, namely, Bath Street and Blue Boar Lane. Nor have the results been wholly unprofitable; though they have been far from correspondent with the wishes of those who take an interest in archæological enquiry.

All persons who have visited the Roman pavement in Jewry-wall Street, know that it lies under a house standing at an angle formed by the junction of the ends of Bath Street and Jewrywall Street. It was in Bath Street that excavations were made about Midsummer, 1859, for the purpose of laying down the culverts. When the workmen had arrived about half-way up the street, they found their progress obstructed by a wall four or five feet thick, which took an oblique direction across the street. The wall was constructed of stones laid in cement. On the side of the street opposite to that on which the well-known Roman pavement lies was another, composed of large tessellæ, exhibiting no pattern. Near the wall, also, lay fragments of roof-tiles. There can be little hesitation felt in assuming this wall to have formed part of a mansion, the magnificent pavement adjoining having been the floor of its principal apartment; and it is probable the plain pavement was that of its courtyard, the roof-tiles indicating that it was open and near to the covered part of the building. As these town-houses were of one storey, they usually extended over a considerable area, around one or more courtyards.

In September last the excavators were engaged in Southgate Street. When they were taking out the earth at that part of the street lying between Mr. Collier's and Mr. Johnson's malt-offices, they found a coarse pavement and a portion of a stone column. The latter is about two feet high, one foot and one inch in diameter, and three feet two inches in circumference. It lay about twelve feet below the surface. Further up the street, in the direction of the High Cross, near the premises of Mr. Warren, fragments of plaster, which had formed the sides of a room, coloured in deep red, were taken out of the ground: they were mistaken for portions of a floor.

Two hundred years ago on the self-same spot, we are assured by Throsby, a local historian, traces of pavements and painted walls were revealed. "In 1667," he says, "some workmen having occasion to dig where Mr. Johnson's buildings now stand, found at the depth of twelve feet a beautiful floor of Mosaic work; there were also side-walls standing, beautifully painted."

These remains were unquestionably those of another mansion equal in extent to that in the Jewrywall Street.

Not far from this locality approaching to the site of the High Cross, a "thick, almost impenetrable wall of forest stone," was discovered in 1791 at the depth of sixteen feet: it was apparently the foundation of some building. It crossed the street in a north-westerly direction. When the house opposite to the Nag's Head was rebuilt by Mr. Stephen's, a tesselated pavement was found. Under the parlour of the house now occupied by Mr. Collier, in Southgate Street, a similar pavement was once exposed. These details prove that almost the entire length of the street from the

High Cross to the South Gate, at the end of Friar Lane, the ground was anciently covered with buildings of some pretension to solidity of structure and ornamental character. The road must, therefore, have been carried over and through their ruins after the demolition and desertion of the Roman town, and in the dark period intervening between the fifth and the tenth centuries.

In the street lying between the High Cross and the North Gate, the case is different: pavements have not been laid bare along its course. That known as the Diana and Actæon pavement was found on one side of the street. Now, if the present line of road here follows the line of that of the Roman station (as would appear likely), then the absence of pavements is what would be expected. But recent excavations have brought to light, at four feet below the surface, a walk constructed of granite and sandstone, five feet thick, extending from a point near All Saints' Church to another near the Borough Gaol.

This line of masonry is too long to be considered that of one building, and I therefore assume it to have been that of the street frontage of the Via Principalis of Ratæ. Its existence in the middle of the street does not furnish an objection to the theory, as the streets in the Roman-British towns were often little wider than passages, and there would be space enough left for the remainder of the avenue between the subterranean wall and the opposite frontage now standing.

It may be stated for the benefit of those who have not bestowed attention upon this subject, that the reason why walls and pavements are found many feet below the present surface is probably this:—In the case of the Roman-British houses the stonework only rose, in the first instance, a few feet above the ground, the superposed structure being composed of a framework of wood, and the interstices being filled in with plaster. As there was only one storey the superstructure was necessarily light and insubstantial. When, therefore, the buildings were overthrown by hostile hands—the woodwork being consumed by fire, and the charred materials all falling down in a mass—it is not difficult to perceive how the stonework might in great part remain *in situ* and the earth and rubbish be roughly levelled over by succeeding occupants, who thus by degrees raised the surface of the streets and of the entire intramural area.

In September last, while the sewerage excavations were being prosecuted in Blue Boar Lane, the labourers came in contact with a wall following the same direction as the street. The upper part of the masonry was five feet below the surface, and it was exposed to the depth of five feet lower; six feet below which the lowest course had not been reached. The wall was six feet long, and constructed of Roman tiles, similar to those visible in the Jewry Wall. At one end of the masonry was found a portion of a stone

column, 2 feet 9 inches high, on its plinth or base. The latter was about 12 inches in depth; the column was about 5 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference. At the other end of the wall a second fragment, without the plinth, was discovered. It was 1 foot 5 inches in diameter, 4 feet 7 inches in circumference, and 2 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. The two pieces were of millstone grit.

It will be remembered that a portion of a shaft like those described was found a few years ago at the lower end of S. Nicholas Street. The capital of a column of Byzantine character (now preserved in the town museum) was also turned up on or near Talbot Lane. In the same locality, in the year 1793, were discovered numerous fragments of columns. This part of Leicester has evidently, therefore, been covered at some remote period by a building, with substantial walls, and adorned with colonnades. The ground has obviously been greatly raised by artificial means about the Jewry Wall, and the *debris* of a large edifice have contributed to the result.

On looking at the map of Leicester, it will be noticed that an area of oblong shape lies included between Highcross Street and the Jewry Wall, and S. Nicholas Street and the Blue Boar Lane. If we also examine the outline of such a Roman encampment as those were which were commonly formed in the first century of our era—of the period in which Leicester was founded—we shall perceive that it was usually crossed by two roads. One of these was the *Via Principalis* or High Street; the other intersected it at right angles. At the point of intersection was the Prætorium, or quarters of the general. The oblong area just defined corresponds with this part in Leicester. When the encampment passed into a town, the probability is that the Prætorium was converted into the Prefecture, or governor's residence, with the Basilica, or courthouse, and other buildings of public utility, attached. Sometimes public baths formed a portion of the various edifices which in time clustered round the principal one as a centre. Now this is the kind of block of buildings which occupied the oblong area, and of which the fragmentary columns recently brought to light, and the Jewry Wall, are probably the suggestive remains.

Other discoveries have lately been made in Talbot Lane, very near the locality here alluded to, but they require further attention and investigation before they can be satisfactorily described.

I here conclude these observations and explanations. If they be but vague and general—if we are yet unable to construct a map of Roman Leicester in its leading outlines—you may, perhaps, have been convinced that many feet below the Leicester of to-day lie the traces of a once opulent, populous, and well-built town—the eloquent memorials of the luxurious Roman, who was surrounded by his frescoed halls, who trod on his tesselated pavements, and who indulged in the pleasures of the bath and the

theatre. Thus, locked in the slumbers of oblivion, the Spirit of the Past may be said to repose beneath our houses and our marts —that Spirit which lived when painting, statuary, and sculpture laid their products before the vulgar eye—when law was recognised in the city while force ruled in the forest—when the municipal organization was witnessed in vigorous operation—long before our Teutonic ancestors had learned to lisp the syllables of civilization; and if the Buried City beneath us be not wide and marvellous as are those which are scattered over the plains of Assyria—nor complete and startling in its apparent freshness as the lava-engulfed cities of Italy—yet do its many vestiges appeal more directly to our everyday sympathy and local associations.

On independent grounds the minutest relics of antique social life have a charm for the intelligent mind; for even the rusty fibula affords almost a concentrated history of the Roman art, and the shattered urn often tells a vivid story of Roman customs; but when at ten, fifteen, or twenty feet below the surface of modern Leicester, the excavator brings to light massive fragments of masonry, held together in the bonds of a tenacity which defies assault, are we not disposed to ask whether there were not "giants in those days?" And, as the fossil geologist finds in the perishing bone a relic of the mastodon of the early world, are we not in like manner reminded by these subterranean walls of the stately fabrics of the primeval Britain? Does not that grim and misshapen ruin, the Jewry Wall, seem to us like a plesiosaurian monster of Archæology left stranded by the receding tides of time on the shores of eternity?

Votes of thanks to the Readers of Papers, and to the President (the latter proposed by the Worshipful the Mayor of Leicester, and responded to by the President, Lord John Manners. M.P.) closed the proceedings.

31*st December*, 1860.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Members of the Society: Mr. H. Lankester, Leicester; Mr. William Allen Kendall, Humberstone; Mr. Thomas Mercer, Leicester; Mr. John Hunt, Thurnby; Mr. Alfred Russell Donisthorpe, Leicester; Mr. H. D. Dudgeon, Leicester; Dr. Day, Wymondham; The Rev. Augustus Packe, M.A., Walton on the Wolds.

The following Gentlemen were also elected Honorary Members of the Society: Mr. E. L. Stephens, Borough Surveyor; the Rev. C. Boutell.

The Rev. J. H. Hill exhibited rubbings of a brass of Sir John de Wantyng, of Wimbish (1347); of a fragment of a brass at Bodiam, Sussex (1360); of a brass in memory of Robert Kervile, Wiggenhall, S. Mary's, Norfolk; and of another in memory of Peter Denot or Devot.

Sir H. L. Dryden, Bart., presented to the Society a lithograph of Copplestone Cross, North Devon.

Mr. George Cowdell Neale read the following paper on

TREASURE TROVE.

I beg to trespass upon your time this morning whilst I make a few observations on the appropriation of Treasure Trove, a subject which I consider so important as to affect the interests of this and other archæological societies, all local museums, and especially every private collection of antiquities. My few remarks will refer principally to the numismatical department of archæological science.

In the early historic ages of our country, we find that in the absence of peaceful pursuits, the love of conquest and the desire for plunder so occupied the attention of neighbouring nations, that Britain was not likely to, neither did she, escape the scourge of the invader's sword. Conquered and reconquered for many centuries, much of her soil was saturated with the blood of her brave defenders and never-tiring foes. In the presence of, or close proximity to, such enemies, with but a thinly-scattered population, little agricultural development, and less of manufacturing skill, it became a necessity that almost every man should be a warrior, should buckle on the sword and learn the art of war. Although in succeeding ages the invader never landed on our shores in any force to devastate the land and pillage the homes of our ancestors, yet records of wars more cruel, of a civil and intestine character, fill pages of our history with melancholy details of desperate conflicts; as examples, those of the Roses, and of the seventeenth century, stand out most conspicuously. To these frequent sanguinary contests, combined with accidental causes and the absence of public depositories for wealth, the coin collector of the present day is indebted for those interesting relics after which he industriously seeks, and places from time to time in his cabinet, as fresh links in a chain, which he is ever anxious to extend, although he may never be able to complete. The bank of deposit to the soldier and man of wealth, in the troublous times to which we have alluded, was a

secret little chamber in a chimney, an opening in a beam, a crevice in a wall, or more generally a hole in the ground. Before he went forth to the battle-field, he secreted his hoards of silver pennies and groats, his golden nobles and broads; but often the too well directed arrow or pointed spear prevented his return to disinter his hidden wealth, where concealed for centuries it lay, with no other visitant than the spider or the worm—until the pick of the navvy, the hammer of the mason, or the saw of the carpenter, unexpectedly struck upon the precious deposits. We think this view we have taken is corroborated by the fact, that the coins of Charles I., and those in circulation during his reign, are so frequently discovered in such places, and in such quantities, as to leave no doubt of their being secreted wealth.

The discovery of these treasures has often given rise to serious dispute, and even litigation. The finder, the owner of the soil, the lord of the manor, and the Crown, have each, I believe, endeavoured to substantiate a claim. A few little difficulties and distinctions, more nice than wise, such as whether the objects were discovered on the surface, or an inch or two below, have rendered decision on these matters somewhat perplexing. But Government has lately instituted such an active inquiry after, and demand upon, relics of antiquity, that we are led to conclude it is supported in its claim by some ancient right, which, like many obsolete laws and customs, more honoured in their breach than in their observance, has not hitherto been rigorously enforced. As archæologists, we naturally and interestedly ask—can this be a right, or is it an assumption? The purchaser of a house concludes that the whole of its materials are his own, *de facto*, as well as *de jure;* and if, during its demolition, any treasure should be discovered, who in equity has so great a claim to it as himself? The proprietor of a Welsh mountain, for example, concludes the mineral wealth it may contain is indisputably his own; and if he be so fortunate as to find in its surface-soil a coin of Edward I., which some attendant was less fortunate to lose, as he escorted his Queen to Carnarvon castle, such by right should be his—to decide otherwise would be making a distinction without a difference. In appropriating these treasure "finds," Government purchases what it appears to claim, at about their intrinsic or natural value. Every one at all acquainted with ancient coins knows, that in many cases their intrinsic value is not their worth—there is a fictitious price far above this. The value of a coin or medal depends upon its rarity, condition, beauty of execution, or its association with any interesting circumstance, person, or event. Rarity is exemplified in such coins as the gold penny of Henry III.; the petition crown by Simon; the quarter florin of Edward III.; the George noble and rial of Henry VIII., and many others. Condition is estimated according to the legibility of its type, freshness and freedom from abrasion. Beauty of execution

is observed in the coins of Cromwell, which were never in circulation, and during the Protectorate were treasured up as works of art. The five shilling piece of the present reign is a work of such exquisite skill, that a proof realizes five times its metallic value. Under this head we cannot classify, though of recent production, the new bronze coinage. The value of a coin or medal, estimated according to its association with any historic event, is exemplified in the medal which Captain Knight exhibited at the late soirée. Its intrinsic worth is perhaps two shillings, but being associated with the history of a most unfortunate monarch, in times most eventful, it is deservedly and highly prized by its fortunate possessor.

During the last and present generation, the rapid increase of wealth, and the facilities for acquiring knowledge, have naturally been followed by refinement of taste, and a due appreciation of the rare and beautiful. Objects of antiquity of every description have found many admirers, who have become diligent students of their various merits, and of the department of science to which they belong. Ancient coins, as they have been discovered, have found their way into the cabinets of private collectors, where they have been carefully classified and arranged. Many, no doubt, have been melted down; and one-third of those discovered in the present day, from their imperfect condition, deserve no better fate. We are told Government is instituting its present active enquiry after, and demand upon, Treasure Trove, to prevent this destruction: but we cannot accept the plea. Almost every village now has its virtuoso, and every town its jeweller, to whom coins are consigned; and the collector is well acquainted with these depôts of the objects of his cherished pursuit. There is little danger now of coins of value being cast into the melting pot or refiner's crucible. We believe the private collector to be quite as safe a guardian of the objects of antiquity, as museum curators, or government officials. So far as the numismatical department is concerned, the British Museum is little better than a condemned cell; where, most securely kept from the visitor's eye, are objects professedly for "public view." As we are told these are not the days for silver keys to unlock museum doors and government offices, we refrain to apply them. To visit the coin-room of our national museum, we must procure an order, not always easily to be obtained, from some official. A visitor too feels a delicacy in asking to see ten different coins, which perhaps have to be selected from as many different cabinets; however courteous the curator may be, he regards his visit almost as an intrusion. Surely, in this age of iron and glass, when the former can be made of any strength, and the latter of any necessary thickness, and of crystal purity, coins need not be exhibited in opaque cabinets. To dispute the value of museums would be folly, but in the department which we have been considering, we think more general information is distributed by the one thou-

sand little collections in our own country, than by this gigantic system of centralization. The private collector regards with a very jealous eye the government appropriation of Treasure Trove; he must henceforth relinquish his pursuit, or study his subject deprived of his alphabet, grammar, and rules; for such to him are his coins.

Two recently discovered hoards, one at Barrow, the other at Kibworth, have been removed from the county; two pages, as it were, rudely torn from the history of our local antiquities. Some we know would have been lodged in our local museums, their proper destination, if to be publicly displayed; others have passed by purchase into the possession of a gentleman fully capable of appreciating their worth. The Nunburnholme (Yorkshire) "find" does not appear to have been demanded by the Lords of the Treasury. Lord Londesborough, the owner, states, that he divided the coins equally, and presented them to three different Institutes, two belonging to the county of York. The claims of local museums and private collectors should not be disregarded in the discovery and distribution of relics. The British Museum is indebted for her choicest specimens to the private collectors, the contents of whose cabinets from time to time, from various causes, have been distributed under the hammer of the auctioneer. Owing to the labour and taste of the local archæologist, many a costly gem has been snatched from oblivion, and the accumulated dust of ages has been removed from objects which have proved valuable accessories to the study both of history and chronology. If the Government appropriation of Treasure Trove be rigorously enforced, even under the active surveillance of the police, archæological societies must necessarily decline, local museums may close their doors, and private individuals must cease to collect. The subject was named to Lord John Manners at our late meeting. Several members of Parliament have also promised to give it their attention, and to introduce it where it will obtain a fair and candid discussion.

It appears especially desirable that a Society like this should discuss the question, record its opinions, and enter a formal protest on the minutes of its proceedings. My own conviction is, that the diffusion and not the centralization of objects of antiquity is the way to advance science; that Treasure Trove should be allowed to take its accustomed and accidental course, as in an age of taste and refinement like the present it will not be overlooked or misappropriated. We need no Act of Parliament now to prevent the destruction of relics; it would be well indeed if more vigilance was exercised to prevent their manufacture. We do not wish to form an Archæological Protection Society; we would rather have all unnecessary restrictions removed, which prevent the free distribution of objects of antiquity. Treasure Trove is described by an old but excellent authority to be, "Money, which being found, and not owned, belongs to the King; but in the Civil Law to the finder."

How far the present interference of Government accords with this, is a subject of considerable interest and open to grave criticism.

28*th January*, 1861.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the Chair.

The following resolutions, &c., were passed in Committee:—

That Mr. G. C. Bellairs be treasurer in the room of the late Mr. Isaac Hodgson.

That the Rev. E. W. Woodcock be a member of the committee.

That Mr. Goddard be auditor for the year.

A letter from the Rev. J. M. Gresley, announcing his resignation of the office of joint honorary secretary, and of his retirement as a member of the Society having been read, it was resolved, "That the thanks of the Society be presented to him for his able and indefatigable services, and that he be elected an honorary member of this Society."

That Mr. North be elected Honorary Secretary of the Society in the room of the Rev. J. M. Gresley.

Mr. John Thompson was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Vincent Wing exhibited some fine and interesting photographs from the church of S. Chad, Stockton, Salop, which has been lately restored from that gentleman's own designs.

Mr. Goddard exhibited an ancient iron stirrup and a spur.

Mr. Vincent Wing called the attention of the Society to the bad and dangerous state of the fine church at Melton Mowbray, and to the absolute necessity for extensive repairs being made to the fabric. He also referred to the limited supply of funds, and the great difficulty of raising money for the purpose.

25*th March*, 1861.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby in the Chair.

Mr. North (Honorary Secretary) presented and read the following Report of the proceedings of the Society for the past year, which was adopted, and ordered to be printed in the next annual volume of the associated societies:—

THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1860.

In reporting the operations of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society for the year 1860, your Committee will divide their remarks into three sections:—

I. The Bi-Monthly Meetings.
II. Architectural Progress in the County during the year.
III. The Exhibition and Soirée.

The bi-monthly meetings have been of a most interesting character, and the objects exhibited both rare and curious, but of so varied a character as to render anything like a definite description of them in a Report altogether impracticable.

The numismatical department has been well represented during the year. Among other contributions, Mr. G. H. Nevinson exhibited Roman coins found at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, counters and tradesmen's tokens; the Rev. G. E. Gillett, English silver coins from Waltham; the Rev. J. Sankey, Roman and English coins, with some medals; Mr. North, some local tradesmen's tokens. To Mr. G. C. Neale the Society and all coin-collectors are much indebted for a short Paper upon *Treasure Trove*, which your Committee have pleasure in presenting to the members of this Society in the volume of Reports and Papers about to be printed by the Societies in union for that purpose. The subject is one claiming the attention of all interested in local antiquities; for, if the Government is, unchallenged, to assert its right to all coins found below the surface of the soil, the private collector will have little inducement to follow his favourite study, and the local museum will be wanting in a department illustrative of local history, most interesting to all enquirers into the "bygones" of particular localities.

Several typographical curiosities have been laid upon the table:

The *Rydeware Cartulary*, a MS. compiled 2 Edward II., by Thomas de Rydeware, lord of the manor of Seile, Leicestershire, containing transcripts of charters, and illustrated by several curious drawings showing the dress, regal, military, and ecclesiastical, of the period, was exhibited by the Rev. J. M. Gresley, at the October meeting. The *Staffordshire Clog Almanack*, mentioned in Shaw's History of Staffordshire, was also exhibited and illustrated by a paper read by Mr. Gresley at the same meeting. The same gentleman exhibited numerous curiosities at the other meetings of the Society, as did also Mr. Goddard, Mr. Jacques, the Rev. J. H. Hill, and other members.

Several Papers illustrative of local history and antiquities, or of the objects exhibited, have been read during the year, which your Committee regret cannot be placed upon permanent record, they being worthy of more than a mere passing notice in a necessarily short Report.

I. The Monumental Brass of Robert Staunton, Esq., and Agnes his wife, at Castle Donington; description of the Brass, and historical sketch of the Family, by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.
II. Churchyard Crosses, by V. Wing, Esq.
III. Newstead, by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.
IV. The Biddenden Cake, by G. C. Neale, Esq.
V. Staffordshire Clog Almanack, by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.
VI. Treasure Trove, by G. C. Neale, Esq.

If we may anticipate a few lines, and add to these the Papers read at the Soirée which we shall notice presently, we have

VII. Mediæval Costume, as illustrated by Monumental Brasses, by the Rev. Chas. Boutell, M.A.
VIII. The Objects of Architectural and Archæological Societies, by F. W. Ordish, Esq.
IX. The State of Leicester in the early part of the seventeenth century, by J. Gough Nichols, Esq., F.S.A.
X. Recent Discoveries illustrative of Roman Leicester, by James Thompson, Esq.

Had this Society's work, during the past year, been confined simply to the bringing of these Papers before its members and the public, its existence would have needed no apology.

Paper No. IX. is also printed in the volume for the year 1860.

Though your Committee have to regret that during the past year few Architectural Plans have been laid before them, still, much has been done in the county in the way of church restoration, the erection of school-houses or other buildings claiming particular attention, in many of which members of this Society feel a deep interest, or with which they are intimately connected. The following may be cited:—

S. Martin's Church, Leicester. The restoration of this church is again being resumed: this time alteration as well as restoration is to take place. The spire and tower being pronounced in a dangerous state, the former has been taken down, and the latter is to follow in the ensuing spring. It will be remembered the tower rests upon four Norman arches, the western one being made additionally heavy in appearance, by the addition, some years ago, of a course of brickwork to increase its strength; these, with the large mass of masonry containing the belfry stairs, are to be removed, the whole to be replaced by an Early English tower, resting upon corresponding arches and surmounted by a broach-spire—should sufficient funds be forthcoming—in character and design similar to the well known example at Ketton in Northamptonshire. The belfry stairs will be placed in the north transept, the entrance being from the exterior. The north or Heyricke's chapel, which is in a very dilapidated condition, is to be restored, and the north transept to be carried out considerably: the whole being under the architectural care of Mr. Brandon.

The substitution of one style of architecture for another in rebuilding portions of an ancient church, is a proceeding which in almost every instance is open to severe criticism, if not to reprobation; but there will be so much apparent gain, in this instance, to the general effect and utility of the church, in bringing the chancel into closer connection with the nave, and in throwing open a large space by the removal of the belfry stairs, that the general rule is, perhaps in this case, judiciously departed from. Plans and elevations of the intended alterations were exhibited at the late Soirée of this Society.

S. Mary's Church, Leicester. During the past year the restoration of this venerable church has been brought to a close. This church is of large dimensions, and is peculiarly interesting as exhibiting various styles of architecture, beginning with early Norman, of which there are some fine examples. The works effected during the year consist of the rebuilding of the whole arcade on the north side of the nave, with the clerestory above. Before their reconstruction the arches on this side the nave were extremely plain, being entirely destitute of mouldings; they are now, however, richly moulded, to make them correspond with those on the south side. The clerestory, like the arches below, is in the Early English style, displaying twelve lancet windows, joined together on the outside by a continuous arcade with clustered columns. The north side of the nave now forms a fine feature of the church. The other works carried on during the year were the completion of the seats, which are of oak with carved poppy heads, and the substitution of an elaborately carved oak pulpit in the place of the old one. A south porch has also been erected in the Early English style, which has a fine recessed doorway with enriched mouldings. The inside is ornamented with an extremely chaste arcade with polished alabaster pillars. All the doors of the church, too, have been replaced in oak, those on the north and south being good specimens of carving, exactly copied from the old ones. The other doors are of plain oak, covered with richly wrought iron work. The lighting of the church is also entirely new, being effected by means of gaseliers suspended from the roof, manufactured by Skidmore of Coventry. They are of very handsome design, the coronæ in the chancel and that over the font being much richer than the rest. The rebuilding of the arcade of the nave and the erection of the south porch were carried out, from the designs of Mr. G. G. Scott, by Mr. Broadbent, of Leicester.

The munificence displayed in this work of restoration by a member of this Society—the outlay being almost entirely defrayed, and the works personally superintended by Mr. Thomas Nevinson—not only makes the town of Leicester, a lasting debtor to his large-hearted liberality, but sheds a lustre upon any Architectural Society which, like this, can number him among its most energetic supporters.

S. Andrew's Church, Leicester. This new church is now in course of erection in the parish of S. Mary, from designs of Mr. G. G. Scott. A sketch of the exterior was exhibited at the late Meeting and Soirée of the Society in Leicester.

Belgrave Church. The chancel of this church has been recently restored by Mr. Evan Christian, the architect to the Ecclesiastical Commission. This fabric is ex-

ceedingly interesting, being of the Decorated character, and the details of the tracery almost *unique*—there being only two or three other churches in the country possessing similar architectural features. The original character of the fabric has been faithfully preserved; the reduced pitch of the roof adopted since the Reformation has, however, unfortunately being retained. The chancel is furnished with open seats placed choir-wise.

Skeffington Church. The restoration of this church, dedicated to S. Thomas à Beckett, is rapidly approaching completion: when the works were commenced the intention was merely to re-seat the church and replace the roof, which from decay had become in a dangerous state, by a new one: Richard Sutton, Esq., however, would not allow the good work to be stayed where absolute necessity would have allowed it, but at his own cost undertook the re-erection of the aisles, south porch, font, &c. Subsequently Mr. Sutton has also rebuilt the chancel entirely at his own expense, inserting in the east end a stained glass window by Wailes of Newcastle. The church is now almost a new structure, but, with the exception of the porch and chancel, is a faithful copy of the original building. The seats are of Spanish deal. The roof is of the same wood, *one bay* of the old one fortunately remaining as a guide to the restorer in erecting the new. The font, of Aubigny stone, is placed close to the south door.

The chancel has been rebuilt from designs by the architect, in a character to harmonize with the other portion of the church, which is built in the Late Perpendicular style; the old chancel was of so late a date as to be properly avoided in the rebuilding. The reredos is of stone, with alabaster panels, and is richly carved. The seats here, screens, altar-rails, pulpit, and desk are of oak.

Mr. Millican of Leicester is the architect; the carving, by Mr. Barfield of Leicester, is admirable workmanship.

Pickwell Church. This Church, dedicated to All Saints, has a tower at the west end, and a good sized nave, aisles, and chancel. A peculiar feature here is that the chancel is nearly the same height as the nave, and there is no arch to divide the two. The north aisle is one bay longer than the south; and the northern arcade, which is composed of late Norman arches, originally extended nearly to the end of the chancel. The tower, which is Perpendicular work—like so many others in this part of the county—is of excellent workmanship. The lower half of the belfry windows had been blocked up, but they are now opened, and restored to their original condition: the lower window and base mouldings have also been repaired.

The original plans for the restoration comprised new roofs on nave and aisles, rebuilding the south aisle and porch, opening the tower arch, removing plaster from the walls, and renewing the mouldings; re-seating with open benches, new pulpit and reading-desk, re-glazing the windows, new pinnacles on the south aisle, and the introduction of an arch between the nave and the chancel. All these works have been carried out, with the exception of the pinnacles and chancel-arch, which were abandoned for want of funds. The division between nave and chancel is shewn by bringing one of the roof-principals lower down, and filling up the spandrils with tracery.

The native stone has been used for the new ashlar work, and Ancaster stone for the door and window dressings. The expenses, beyond what is raised by rate, are being defrayed by the Earl of Gainsborough, A. Smith, Esq., of Leesthorpe, and the Rev. G. Lovett. Mr. R. W. Johnson of Melton Mowbray is the architect.

Welby Church. This church is a plain building, without aisles, and has a small gabled tower at the west end. The chancel has a good east window of Early Perpendicular work, and windows of a similar character on either side. The nave of the church, in addition to windows of a nondescript character, was lighted by two heavy dormer windows intersecting the roof, which was ceiled. In last summer, the roof having given way, a new one became a necessity: so the dormer windows have been removed, and a new open roof in character with the building has been put on. New windows similar to those in the chancel have replaced the old ones, and a new south doorway and porch have been erected.

The internal fittings, with the exception of the pulpit—which is Jacobean—are very poor; it is hoped the parishioners will complete the restoration by re-seating the church, a plan for which is now under consideration. Further improvements, by lowering the ground, &c., are to be made; formerly there was a descent of two steps into the church, now the floor and the churchyard will be level. Mr. R. W. Johnson of Melton is the architect employed.

Fenny Drayton Church. Two years ago this church presented a lamentable spectacle of neglect and desolation; it was covered—nave and aisles—by one low-pitched roof, and lighted by a skylight! The chancel window was gone, and its place supplied by a square opening. Internally, there were the to-be-expected features—a low plastered ceiling, and the high ugly pews.

The first active work of the recently appointed rector, the Rev. J. E. Colyer, was —aided by subscriptions—to place the church in the hands of Mr. W. Jackson, architect, of Leicester, to effect a thorough restoration. The old roof has been replaced by new ones of higher pitch over the nave and south aisle; the walls have been cleared of stucco and partly rebuilt; a new east window has been inserted; the old pews have given place to carved stalls in the chancel and open benches in the body of the church; a new chancel-arch with responds supplies the place of the wooden beam which finished the old ceiling; a new tower-arch that of the old "singers' gallery;" and a new porch of stone that of the old one of brick.

Thorpe Satchville Church. This church has been partially restored, and wholly repewed in oak; the pulpit, reading-desk, and altar-rails, are new, as is the east window, font, &c. The works were executed by Mr. Sherwood and Messrs. Linley and Firn, under the inspection of Mr. Henry Goddard, architect, Leicester.

Burrow-on-the-Hill. This church has also been restored by Mr. Henry Goddard, architect, of Leicester. In addition to new seats in the church, a new oak pulpit, reading desk, altar-rails, stalls in chancel, &c., have been erected; and the richly ornamented Early English font thoroughly cleaned and restored. It is now placed near the south entrance. On scraping the arcade arches the remains of elaborate decorations in colours were discovered, and the timbers of the roof, &c., were found to have been similarly ornamented. The works were executed by Mr. Broadbent, of Leicester.

Owston Church. This church (the only remaining portion of the abbey founded here in the reign of Edward III. by Robert Grimbold) has been thoroughly restored, and the spire heightened. The works by Mr. Broadbent; the architect, Mr. Henry Goddard, of Leicester.

Birstall School. A new national school has been erected at Birstall, from the designs of Mr. W. Millican, architect, Leicester. It will accommodate 120 children. The cost is £400., exclusive of site. The building is of Mountsorrel granite, with Bath stone dressings to windows, doors, &c.; with an open timbered roof, covered with tiles. The whole is of an early character.

Enderby School, by the same architect, and of similar design and materials, is completed, and will shortly be opened.

Your Committee, in addition to the ecclesiastical and scholastic edifices thus enumerated, can point with pleasure to many private residences lately erected, or now in course of erection, in the neighbourhood of Leicester, which show great originality in plan, and considerable taste in many of their details. With room for further improvement, there is, undoubtedly, a freedom and boldness which promise much in the future.

In consequence of intended arrangements for the annual meeting, to be held at Lutterworth, not being carried into effect, it was determined that the year should not close without the members and friends of your Society being called together, as they had been, once at least during each year of the Society's existence; these meetings not only being found most agreeable and interesting to the members themselves, but tending to strengthen and to carry out the intentions of the Society by the addition of new members, by causing to be brought together for exhibition antiquities, and works of art, which otherwise would never appear before the public, and by eliciting papers upon local topics—architectural, historical, or antiquarian—from members or friends of the Society.

It was therefore proposed to hold a meeting in Leicester. The arrangements were placed in the hands of a sub-committee, who determined upon the rather bold experiment of an Archæological Soirée, to be held in the Music Hall, on the 5th of December. The loan of antiquarian objects, photographic views of churches, drawings of ancient buildings, architectural designs, specimens of carving, antique china and objects of *virtu* was solicited, the intention of the exhibition being, as stated by the Committee in their circular, "to illustrate the Art of Architecture and the Science of Archæology, and, as subordinate thereto, to exhibit specimens of Decorative Art generally." This appeal was well responded to. The tables were arranged, as far as possible, according to date; whilst the drawings and photographs were hung upon the walls, and upon upright stands prepared for them.

[The Report proceeds to record the proceedings at the Soirée, which do not require repeating here. *See* p. 1.]

In concluding a somewhat lengthy Report, your Committee would congratulate the Society upon the increased desire exhibited throughout the county to uphold and to restore the venerable fabrics in which our fathers worshipped for so many centuries; and upon the care, and, in most instances, the correct architectural taste, shewn in the restoration or rebuilding of them. They must also be permitted to refer with considerable satisfaction to the success attending the Exhibition and Soirée just referred to. It being the first meeting of that kind attempted by the Committee, there were, unavoidably, some slight mistakes in the arrangements, which experience will teach how to avoid in the future. Congratulations must not, however, blind us to the fact that your Society does not make the progress in numbers and consequently in influence which its objects certainly claim.

Your Committee, in order to strengthen its position, would strongly urge upon each member the duty of paying his subscription punctually, enlisting his friends as members, and of furthering the objects of the Society to the best of his ability.

The Treasurer's Account for the past year, shewing a balance of £8. 17s. 6d. in favour of the Society, was also presented and adopted.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: The Rev. E. J. Colyer, Fenny Drayton Rectory; the Rev. R. J. Allen, Leicester; the Rev. Assheton Pownall, South Kilworth Rectory; Mr. Wm. Jackson, Architect, Leicester; Mr. Fred. Jackson, Architect, Nottingham; Mr. Henry Moore, Leicester.

It was Resolved that the following memorial, referring to the new Government Offices, be sent to the Right Hon. Lord John Manners, M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons.

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled,

The humble petition of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society sheweth

That the Gothic Style of Architecture is in the opinion of your memorialists the national style of England.

That whilst it is universally recognized as the most fitting for ecclesiastical edifices, it is equally, they believe, well adapted—whether considered as to its beauty or economy—to every purpose of public utility, and is thoroughly identified with the natural tastes, sentiments, and traditions of the people.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray your honourable house to adopt the Gothic style of Architecture for the new Government Offices about to be erected.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the members of the Society,

THO. NORTH,

Hon. Secretary."

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Mr. G. C. Neale exhibited two fine medals and described them thus:

I exhibit a very interesting and well struck medal commemo-

rating the defeat of the Spanish Armada, improperly, if not impiously, called the "invincible." It is the work of a Dutch artist, and dated 1588, the period from which commenced the gradual decadence of the once powerful and flourishing kingdom of Spain. From the device and inscriptions, we regard the medal as satirical. On the obverse are seated in Council, the Pope, wearing his triple crown, cardinals, bishops, and other Roman Catholic princes, having their eyes bandaged, and their bare feet placed upon prickles. Above is the inscription, *O coecas hominum mentes, O pectora coeca* —"O the blind minds of men, O their blind breasts." Between two beaded circles we read, *Durum est contra stimulos calcitrare* —"It is hard to kick against the pricks." On the reverse is represented the destruction of the Armada; some of the ships have struck upon the rocks and are sinking in the deep; their sails are swelled and riven by the wind; and men are floating on pieces of the wreck or struggling in the waves. Above is a play on the memorable words of a more successful invader than Philip: *Veni, vide, vive*—"Come, see, live." Whilst the Spanish monarch and his courtiers ascribed the dispersion of the mighty fleet to the weather, or as a judgment from heaven for allowing the Moors to dwell in Spain, the Queen of England and her subjects piously expressed their feelings in the inscription which encircles this medal, *Tu deus magnus et magna facis tu solus deus*—"Thou art the great God, and doest great things as the only God." It is interesting to observe how medals as well as coins assist in establishing or confirming historical facts. For instance, on the defeat of the Armada, the High Admiral, Lord Howard of Effingham, reverently alluded to God as being "our best friend," for whilst the vigilance of Drake, and the sudden appearance of our fire-ships in Calais roads effected much, it is evident the "freshening gale" was the more immediate cause of the enemy's destruction. Another medal, struck for the occasion, has the appropriate inscription, *Flavit et dissipati sunt*—"He blew and they were scattered." The legend on Elizabeth's "fine sovereign," *A Dno factu est istud, et est mirab in ocul nrs*—"It is the Lord's doing and marvellous in our eyes," might at first sight seem to allude to the aforementioned event; but we read that the Queen uttered these words on hearing of the death of her sister. However this may have been, we are certain it was not an original but an adopted motto, as it appears on the gold coins of the previous reign. The interesting little picture on the reverse of the medal reminds us of the graphic description given by Drake of the defeat and annihilation of the Spanish armament,—"Beaten and shuffled together from the Lizard to Calais, driven by *squibs* from the anchors, and chased out of sight of England, about Scotland and Ireland, their invincible and dreadful navy, with all its great and terrible ostentation, did not in all their sailing about England so

much as sink or take one ship, bark, or pinnace, or cock-boat of ours, or even burn so much as one sheepcote on this land."

I beg also to exhibit a medallion of Queen Anne, engraved by Croker, and struck to commemorate what is described as "Great Anna's reign, long accounted the Augustan age of England." A medal commemorative of an era adorned with the names of Sir Isaac Newton, Locke, Pope, Steele, and Addison, is interesting to the general observer, and most valuable to the collector. Both may regard it as a little tablet on which England gladly recorded her appreciation of an age of literature and science. The obverse has a magnificent bust of the Queen, boldly struck and finely delineated. The head is crowned, and the hair tied back with strings of pearls. The drapery is rich and jewelled, and several orders are worn upon, or suspended from the breast. The inscription is the same as on the coins of the reign, *Anna dei gratia*, &c. On the reverse is represented Minerva: in one hand she holds a spear; the other rests upon a shield, on which is engraved the head of Medusa, not beautiful, as described by the Greeks, or as seen upon amulets, but hideous, with large open mouth, great teeth, lolling tongue, and hair transformed into snakes. The figures on Etruscan vases answer to this description. In the plume surmounting the helmet of Minerva we observe an owl, the substituted symbol of the goddess. The inscription above is *Novæ Palladium Trojæ*. A well preserved coin or medal of Queen Anne is scarce. The bust is raised so far from the field or level surface, that the figure is generally much abrased.

Mr. James Thompson exhibited a curious small chest or casket, oblong in shape, and about seven inches in length, probably a reliquary: it was found in sinking a shaft in a cellar in the neighbourhood of Oakham. It was made of copper, enamelled, and inlaid with figures of saints, and from its style of ornamentation and general appearance, was probably the work of the thirteenth century. Much discussion was elicited as to its probable use. In shape it was not unlike the shrine figured in *The Glossary*, vol. i., p. 426, it having a high pitched lid. Reliquaries were common in churches before the Reformation; they were made of wood and stone as well as of metal, and were frequently elaborately ornamented with most costly embellishments. Again, small coffers or caskets were used for the safe keeping of precious jewels. The one under notice, however, from its size and formation, could hardly have been used for that purpose.

Mr. Thompson further laid before the meeting many fragments of pottery and some Roman coins, which he illustrated by the following remarks:

Within the past seven months extensive excavations have been carried on in the space lying between North Bond Street and South Bond Street in this town, for the purpose of laying the

foundations of a new manufactory, and constructing a reservoir, on the premises of Messrs. Fielding and Johnson, worsted spinners. The site, viewed relatively to the ancient boundaries of Leicester, is nearly central, though nearer to the eastern than the western wall of the original city.

A very large quantity of earth has been removed, to the depth of ten or twelve feet, and, in consequence, the nature of the soil lying over the virgin mould has been discovered. What that would be, after the lapse of from fourteen to eighteen centuries, on a spot which has been inhabited more or less ever since, it is a matter of curiosity to discover. But beyond the presence of a darker coloured earth, lying over the ancient level at irregular heights, and containing small fragments of pottery and bone and rubbish, the sections exhibited no noteworthy specimens of antique objects. Many other fragments, with a few coins, were however turned up, and to those I invite the attention of the Society. I may classify these objects thus:

1. The white pottery.
2. The Samian ware.
3. The coins.

The principal specimen of white pottery is an ampulla, which had originally two handles, one now remaining.

The Samian ware is all in fragments. I produce numerous specimens, lettered for the purpose of explanation. On those lettered from A to I are embossed figures of the animals which were hunted by the Romans—the hare, the stag, the boar, and the rabbit. On fragment D is the stag, in bold relief; on F are the lower limbs of some animal pursued by another, with the potter's name CINNAMUS (probably) partly remaining in relief on the outside. The fragments lettered J and K refer to the gladiatorial customs of the Romans. On J are parts of two naked gladiators, apparently pugilists; they are in bold relief. On K is the figure of a vanquished gladiator, with one knee on the ground, holding up his right hand, in the attitude of soliciting mercy from the spectators. The fragment lettered L is full of subjects. The space is divided into compartments by dotted lines. In one of these the god Mercury is represented in a bent posture, holding in his left hand the caduceus; in another compartment a satyr stands on a pedestal formed of a mask; in another is a rabbit; in another a Cupid; and in another the lower part of an altar. On the fragment lettered M is the representation of Hercules with his club, and on the right of him the compartment is filled with a quasi-column composed of fruit baskets, a mask, and dolphins. On fragment N two cocks are seen sparring. On O are three circles containing a mask, a stag *couchant*, a lion's head, and a semi-draped female figure standing on a pedestal. On P is a rabbit in a circle, surrounded by foliage. On Q are two large leaves. On R are embossed a dog and bird.

On S is a youthful figure carrying a small amphora. On T are a winged figure and a rabbit. On U is a diminutive figure. On V (the rim of a small vessel) is seen a leaf with its stem. Two or three other specimens are not lettered, as they show no marked peculiarity.

On other portions of Samian produced, are impressed the potters' marks, all known to the antiquary, and included in the list appended to Wright's work, *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon.*" Among these are BIGA FECIT, TITURO, ALBUCUS, and SEVERIANUS. One or two names are too faintly impressed to be made out.

The coins found in the same locality with the pottery were not numerous. They consist of a first bronze of Hadrian, with the laureated head on the obverse, and a female figure, holding her right hand over an altar, on the reverse. A second bronze apparently of Cæsar Augustus (the first Roman emperor) who ruled about the commencement of the Christian era. A second bronze of the brutal Domitian, who ruled from 81 to 96 A.D. A second bronze apparently having on the obverse the profile of Hadrian, and on the reverse a seated figure, with spear and shield, and beneath her the word "Britannia." And two or three smaller bronzes.

A small bronze fibula (complete) was also turned up: it is now produced. After the lapse of fifteen or sixteen centuries the pin retains still some "spring" in it.

It should be added that the preservation of these antiquarian relics is to be ascribed to Mr. Fielding Johnson, who has bestowed both care and money in rescuing them from oblivion. As additional evidences of the Roman habitation of Leicester, they are valuable and instructive.

The REV. J. H. HILL exhibited a series of stereograms of Cranoe Church and Rectory, executed by a local artist.

27*th May*, 1861.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the chair.

A letter was read from the Right Honble. Lord John Manners, M.P., acknowledging the receipt of the memorial from this society in favour of the Gothic style of Architecture for the new Foreign Offices, and expressing a hope that all similar societies, would follow so good an example.

The following gentlemen were elected MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY:—

The Honble. Major H. L. Powys-Keck, Stoughton Grange;

C. W. Packe, Esq., M.P.; W. U. Heygate, Esq., M.P.; Major F. Wollaston, Shenton Hall; The Revs. H. L. Dodds, Glen Magna; H. J. Hoskyns, Blaby Rectory; C. W. Belgrave, North Kilworth Rectory; John Sankey, Stoney Stanton Rectory; P. Wilson, Mowsley Rectory; H. D. Millett, Leicester; Edward Elmhirst, Shawell Rectory; Messrs. R. Overton, Jun., Leicester; T. W. H. Miller, Loughborough; F. W. Franks, Billesdon; T. H. Thomson, Leicester; John Taylor, Loughborough; James Spencer, Leicester; and Chas. A. Spencer, Leicester.

It was Resolved that a General Meeting and Exhibition be held at Lutterworth early in September next, and that an excursion be made therefrom.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By The Rev. J. H. Hill, two fine old engravings and a series of photographs of etchings and engravings by Jennings of Market Harborough. He also exhibited a tinctured coat of arms of the Ellis family, framed, which was thus described on the back: "Elys or Ellis a family of great antiquity and in great repute in the reign of Edward the third King of England as is confirmed by an ancient manuscript taken Anno Domini 1326 of the nobility and gentry then boare for their standard coat of arms gold on a cross black five crescents of silver. W.E. A.D. 1809."

By The Rev. Ernest Tower, a sword from Bosworth Field and some portions of encaustic tiles from Shenton Church, bearing heraldic devices, one being apparently Lozengy Or and Gules, the arms anciently borne by Creon of Freeston or Burton Croun, C. O. Lincoln, whose descendant William Lord Vaux, the second son of Petronal de Creon, married Eleanor, daughter of William Lord Ferrars, temp. Hen. III. According to Domesday Henry de Ferrariis held lands at Shenton when the general Survey was taken. A Nuremberg token of the ordinary character was also found lately in Shenton Church.

By Mr. North, specimens of Maundy money of George III., and of the present year. He also contributed the following notes on the

MAUNDY CUSTOMS.

It is curious to trace the Maundy customs down to the present moment.

Maundy-Thursday is the day preceding Good-Friday. The word Maundy has received several derivations: according to Halliwell the Anglo-Norman *Maund* signified to command, *Maundement* a commandment; accordingly Maundy-Thursday is the day of Christ's commandment on instituting the Lord's Supper. Again it has been supposed to be derived from the French *Maun-*

dier, to beg, because the poor on that day were partakers of the liberality of the sovereign. *Maund* is also an old word for a hand-basket with two lids or openings, such as we now see in the butter market; baskets of this kind may have been formerly used in which to carry the gifts on Maundy-Thursday, and so, as Archdeacon Nares remarks, have given a name to the day.

From whatever source the name may be derived, there is no doubt the customs observed on Maundy-Thursday were in commemoration of that act of humility, performed by our Blessed Lord, in washing the feet of His disciples, on the night of His betrayal, as recorded by the Evangelists.

The custom observed by our English sovereigns of then washing the feet of the poor and distributing gifts in commemoration of that event is undoubtedly an ancient one; for centuries past the number of poor people of both sexes chosen to receive the royal bounty, has corresponded with the age of the reigning monarch. There is printed in *Archæologia*, vol. i., p. 8, "The Order of the Maundy made at Greenwich, March 19, 1572," by consulting which, an interesting picture is obtained of the ceremony as performed by Queen Elizabeth. The Queen being then thirty-nine years of age, that number of poor women—the men seem to have been omitted—were assembled in the hall, when her majesty arrived attended by the like number—thirty nine—ladies and gentlewomen, who—after singing, with prayers and the gospel read—assisted her in washing one foot of each of the poor persons in so many basins of warm water and sweet flowers; after which she "wiped, crossed, and kissed them." The Queen then gave to each certain yards of broad cloth to make a gown, then a pair of shoes, then to each a wooden platter, wherein were half a side of salmon, as much lyng, six red herrings, and two loaves of bread; she then gave to each a white wooden dish with claret wine, and having received from each waiting lady her towel and apron, gave to each poor woman one of the same. The treasurer of the chamber then came forward and presented to her majesty thirty-nine small white purses, wherein were thirty-nine pence after the number of the years of her majesty's age, which she distributed; she then further received from him as many red leather purses each containing twenty shillings, for the redemption of her gown, which by ancient order she ought to have given to some one of them at her pleasure. To avoid the "trouble of suit" which was made to obtain possession of the gown, she changed the reward into money, to be thus equally distributed amongst them all.

King James II. was the last English monarch, who in person washed the feet of the poor. This ceremony, until its desuetude, was afterwards performed by the Lord High Almoner. In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April 1831, will be found an account of the distribution in that year at the Banqueting house, Whitehall.

In addition to the provisions as mentioned before, each recipient received a leathern bag in which were one penny, twopenny, threepenny, and fourpenny pieces of silver, and shillings, in all amounting to about four pounds to each person. The washing by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord High Almoner, took place afterwards in the Royal Chapel, Whitehall.

Hone describes the ceremony as performed in 1814. After distribution of provisions in the morning, at three o'clock in the afternoon seventy-five poor men, and the like number of women (the King, George III. being then seventy-five years of age) assembled in the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, the men on the one side, the women on the other. A procession then entered, consisting of a party of the yeomen of the guard, one of them carrying a large gold dish on his head, containing one hundred and fifty bags, with seventy-five silver pennies in each for the poor people. These were followed by the sub-almoner in his robes, with a sash of fine linen over his shoulder and crossing his waist. He was followed by two boys and two girls, the secretary and another gentleman wearing similar sashes, &c., &c., all carrying large nosegays. The evening service was then performed, at the conclusion of which the silver pennies were distributed, and woollen cloth, linen, shoes, and stockings given to the men and women, and a cup of wine to drink the king's health.

The ceremony of the washing appears now to have been abrogated; perhaps the white sash was a feeble descendant of the ancient towel, and the "nosegays," the representatives of the "sweet flowers" used by Queen Elizabeth. The Maundy ceremonies were further curtailed upon the accession of her present majesty. On Maundy-Thursday, 1838, the men and women received each two pounds ten shillings, and nineteen silver pennies (nineteen being the age of the Queen). The men were presented with woollen and linen clothing, shoes and stockings, and the women with one pound fifteen shillings each, in lieu of clothing. The men and women also received one pound ten shillings, *a commutation for the provisions heretofore distributed*.

Since that time to the present, the annual ceremonies appear to have been the same. This year (1861) the charities were distributed to forty-two aged men and forty-two aged women in Whitehall Chapel. A special evening service was performed. After the first lesson Nares' Anthem, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy" was sung.

The sub-almoner then distributed to each woman one pound fifteen shillings, in lieu of clothing, and to each man shoes and stockings.

Second Anthem, "Hide not Thou Thy face from us O Lord" (Farrant).

The sub-almoner then distributed woollen and linen clothes to each man.

The third Anthem, "O Lord grant the Queen a long life" (Nares).

The sub-almoner then distributed to each man and to each women purses of money.

Then followed the second Lesson, a fourth Anthem, "Who is this that cometh from Eden" (Arnold), and prayers composed for the occasion.

Each red purse contained a gold sovereign—was this like Queen Elizabeth's twenty shillings, in lieu of her majesty's gown? and a further sum of one pound ten shillings, as a commutation for provisions: each white purse contained the Maundy coin, consisting of fourpence, threepence, twopence, and pence in silver, amounting together to forty-two-pence, the age of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

Mr. James Thompson read the following Paper on

THE HERRICK PORTRAITS IN THE GUILD HALL, LEICESTER.

In the chamber in which the Town Council of Leicester usually meets are suspended two ancient portraits. They rarely attract any attention, because, perhaps, they have remained there so long, and perhaps because the eye has become familiar with their dark colour and general appearance. They hang on each side of the Mayor's chair, and above the bench on which, in old times, the Aldermen were wont to sit, ranged to the right and left of the chief magistrate.

If the visitor to the Mayor's Parlour will look attentively at the pictures, he will discover something in them to awaken curiosity and to reward a patient examination. That on the left hand is evidently the portrait of a man far advanced in years. His grave and venerable aspect is that of a person once accustomed to exercise authority and to command respect. His head is bald and covered with a close-fitting skull cap; though his visage is still ruddy, as if, when he sat to the artist, he was enjoying a hearty old age. His steady grey eye bespeaks calm thought and matured intelligence. The white hair of the upper lip and the short beard tell their own tale of years gone through. The regular features and general contour of the physiognomy bear the impress of the Englishman of the standard type, free from admixture with Celt or Lapp or Finn. Around his neck he wears a frill. He is clothed in a long black gown. He wears ruffles round his wrists. In his left hand he holds his gloves. A diamond ring is seen on the little finger of the same hand. In the upper right hand corner of the picture is painted a shield, on which is blazoned the coat armorial of Heyrick,

quartered with that of Bond of Ward End in the County of Warwick. In the upper left hand corner of the picture are these lines:

His picture whom you here see
When he is dead and rotten,
By this shall remembered be,
When he shall be forgotten.

This portrait is that of Alderman Robert Heyrick, who died in the reign of James the First; of whom some account will shortly be given.

Very different in description is the person who is pourtrayed in the picture on the right of the Mayor's chair. Something of the same style of feature may, indeed, be seen in him as that of his aged companion; but there is all the difference between the greybeard of more than seventy, and the mature but comparatively youthful man of thirty. There is the grey eye, and the middle sized nose, pointed, and slightly upturned; but the cheeks are not ruddy. They are thin and pale, and the whole countenance is that of a more refined, courtly, and intellectual person than the aged alderman. The ample forehead indicates the man of thought, and the compression of the lips suggests the man of decision and self confidence. The eyebrows are arched and wide apart. The head is covered with dark hair, brushed back from the face, and the upper lip shows a slight moustache; below which a short, dark, picked beard, completes the physiognomy. It is a three-quarter face, of which the right side is presented to the spectator. This person, like the other, has a frill round his neck, and is clothed in a long dark gown. He, too, holds his gloves in his hands; and round his wrists are lace ruffles. There, is, however more attention throughout to the details of dress in the younger than in the older man. The younger man wears on the little finger of his right hand a signet ring, on which is engraved the shield of Bond of Ward End, distinctly visible. The left hand grasps an object which it is difficult to designate: it may be the corner of a table, or it may be a bag, or wallet, richly embroidered. On the little finger of this hand is seen another ring. In the upper right hand corner are painted the armorial bearings of the Goldsmiths' Company. In the upper left hand corner is the coat of arms of the Bond family. On the left hand side of the head are the words "*ætatis suæ* 30:" on the right side, "*An.* 1594."

This portrait has generally been described as that of a citizen and goldsmith of London, named Bond; but Mr. John Gough Nichols, after a close inspection of it, has lately conjectured that the picture represents William Herrick, the youngest brother of alderman Robert Heyrick, just mentioned.

In order that we may learn who these two personages were, I here briefly notice the way in which the Heyrick family became connected with Leicester.

Originally landowners at Great Stretton, they had removed to Houghton-on-the-Hill in the earlier part of the fifteenth century, where Robert Eyrick possessed an estate in the year 1450. His son, Thomas, removed to this borough, where he became a settled inhabitant. At what time this occurred does not appear in any of the local records; as the Hall Books do not even show in what year he complied with the rule (then indispensable to municipal recognition and status of becoming enrolled in the Guild Merchant; without which enrolment he was ineligible to hold local office, and incapable of carrying on business; though it is probable he was not an inhabitant of Leicester much earlier than the year 1500.

Thomas Eyrick soon became a "man of mark" and substance, for in 1512 we find him filling the important and trustworthy office of joint-chamberlain of the corporation—an office all the more important and trustworthy as it formerly involved the performance of the twofold duties of our modern borough treasurer and borough accountant. Appointed by the commonalty as their chamberlain, Thomas Eyrick evidently stood high in the estimation of the burgesses generally; though he never reached the highest round of the ladder of municipal promotion—he was never chosen Mayor. It would appear that he did not pass beyond early middle life; for when he died in the year 1517, he left behind him a widow, a son Nicholas, about fourteen years old, a son John, about four years old, and an infant daughter. Thomas Eyrick lived, and in all probability died, in his house in the Market-place, which stood at the corner of the Cheapside.

The will of this burgess of former days gives us some insight into his character and position.* In it he bequeaths his soul to Almighty God, to our Blessed Lady his mother, and to all the glorious company of heaven; and he desires that his body may be buried in St. Martin's Church, whither he wishes it to be carried by the order of friars in Leicester, each of whom is to have 20d. for his services. He leaves also to every priest of St. Martin's Church 6d., to Robert the parish clerk 4d., to the other clerk 2d., to every priest that attended his funeral 4d., and every child a farthing. He desires also that a "trentall" of masses be said for his soul within the Church of St. Martin.

Having thus, like a devout Catholic, made provisions for his spiritual concerns, he next arranges his temporal affairs. He bequeaths to his son Nicholas the house in which he (the testator) was then dwelling, with £3. 6s. 8d., in ready money, and his best book covered with chamlet. To his son John he also bequeathed £3. 6s. 8d., with his second book with silver clasps, and his best mass-book. To his daughter Elizabeth also he bequeathed the sum of

* I ought here to acknowledge the courtesy I have invariable experienced at the hands of Messrs. Nevinson, the Registrars, who have always rendered me their kind assistance in all researches into the ancient wills of which they are the custodians.

£3. 6s. 8d., a mass-book "with a stone," and a long girdle that was his (the testator's) mother's. To his wife he bequeathed all his moveable goods in order to provide the prayers for his soul, with all his lands for her natural life; Nicholas and his heirs to have them afterwards; John to have them in default of issue to Nicholas; Elizabeth to have them in default of issue to John; and the widow and her assigns, should her children all die childless. Thomas Eyrick made his wife his executrix, and his father-in-law the supervisor of his will.

The two sons grew up and prospered. Nicholas lived in his father's house, where he carried on his business as an ironmonger, and it would seem that John lived with him for some years. Nicholas was admitted into the Guild Merchant on coming of age in the year 1524. In subsequent years he was chosen Mayor's Chamberlain, Auditor of the Borough Account within the East Gate, one of the Stewards of the Market, one of the Borough Coroners, and ultimately Mayor, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, and afterwards a justice of the peace for the remainder of his days.

But it was John, the younger brother, whose history it is more especially necessary to relate, as he was the father of the two characters whose portraits are on the walls of the Mayor's Parlour.

John Eyrick was admitted into the Guild Merchant in the year 1535, that is, on attaining his majority. When about twenty-four years of age, he took to himself a wife. There was then living at Ward End, otherwise Little Bromwich, in the county of Warwick, a gentleman of estate named Bond. He was wealthy. He had built a Chapel, and endowed it with lands wherewith to maintain a priest; and round his mansion he had made a park, which he had stored with deer. He had also a daughter Mary. She was just a year younger than John Heyrick, who sought and was fortunate enough to obtain her hand. John brought his wife to Leicester, to the house in the Market-place, which he had purchased from his brother, and there the exemplary couple dwelt (as we shall shortly see) for many long years, in happiness and prosperity. They became the parents of twelve children—five sons and seven daughters.

John Eyrick and his brother Nicholas lived through periods of strange and stormy revolution. Born before the Reformation, they were trained up in the belief of the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, yet they lived to see that church overthrown and her altars destroyed: they lived to witness the Church in which they had been baptised, stripped of all its ancient accessories and fittings in the reign of Edward the Sixth, refurnished with them in that of Queen Mary, and once more denuded of them on the accession of Queen Elizabeth. It is, in truth, on record that Nicholas Eyrick purchashed a "tabernacle," or recess for an image, and John Eyrick

an organ chamber, on the public sale of the appointments of St. Martin's Church in the reign of Edward the Sixth. That they subsequently espoused heartily the doctrines of the Reformation cannot be doubted: though John Eyrick had served the office of Mayor in the reign of "Bloody Mary."

After having brought up his numerous family, and seen his sons established in business, and his daughters all married, John Eyrick died aged seventy-six, in the house in the Market-place, where he and his wife had lived together for fifty-two years, during which time they had "never buried man, woman, nor child, though they were sometimes twenty in household," as is recorded on an upright marble tablet still preserved in St. Martin's Church. The old townsman's will (yet extant in the Registry of the Archdeaconry of Leicester), marks how great a change had come over the minds of men during his lifetime; for, while his father, Thomas Eyrick had left money for the saying of masses for his soul, John Eyrick died in the full belief that he was "one of God's elect children," leaving Calvin's translation of the New Testament to his son Thomas, and to his daughter Mary, Fox's Book of Martyrs. The house he was dwelling in when he made his will, and where he had dwelt subsequently to his marriage (when he purchased it from his brother Nicholas), he bequeathed to his son Robert, with his scarlet gown: his "holiday gown," faced with foins, he also left to Thomas, and his satin doublet to John. Mary had in addition to Fox's Book of Martyrs, a silver spoon gilt, and the "aumbry" in the great parlour.

The eldest son of John and Mary Eyrick was Robert. It is this person whose portrait is suspended on the left hand of the Mayor's chair in the Guildhall. He was born in the year 1540, his boyhood being passed in the closing years of Henry the Eighth's eventful reign. He was brought up to his father's business, and apparently lived with him. When twenty-seven years of age, he married Elizabeth Manby, probably the daughter of William Manby, who was twice Mayor of Leicester, in the reigns of Queen's Mary and Elizabeth; and the old house in which he and his many brothers and sisters had been reared from childhood, was in a few more years as full of young people as it was in the time of his own infancy; for he became the father of two sons and nine daughters. Robert Eyrick followed in the footsteps of his father, and became a thriving Burgess: adding to the land which had been his grandfather's extensive properties in Leicester. Having graduated in municipal offices, he was first elected Mayor in 1584, when he was forty-four years of age. He rendered himself highly serviceable to the town; advancing money on its behalf to aid in the purchase of the Grange Estate; involving himself in debt in relieving the distressed, when the plague carried death and desolation into every household; filling the Mayoralty three times, and representing the

borough in Parliament during one session in the reign of Elizabeth; and rendering material assistance in procuring the incorporation of Trinity Hospital. He died in the year 1618, laden with years and honour and respect, after a life passed in the practice of domestic virtue, civic usefulness, and genuine benevolence—the type of the venerable English burgomaster. In death, as in life, he—the father of eleven children—was mindful of the welfare of his poorer fellow-creatures; for he bequeathed sums for the benefit of the poor widows of Leicester, and of the under-usher of the Grammar School; for the distribution of bread to poor householders and "old bodies;" for lending money to young burgesses; and for the maintenance of Trinity Hospital.

Such was the character of the man whose portrait, after the lapse of nearly two hundred and fifty years, looks down upon us from the canvass on the walls of the Mayor's Parlour—of that apartment in which (remaining now nearly as it was then) his form was once frequently seen and his voice often heard, to guide the counsels and to benefit the fortunes of his fellow-townsmen. As the venerable burgess looks down from the picture in solemn composure, he may be imagined to be still exercising a kind of tutelary influence over the affairs of that body whose periodical meetings are held in the antique chamber which is now his abiding-place. He may be imagined, after the lapse of the long centuries, to be meditating on the fortunes of the place in which he once swayed the sceptre of local government with all the anxieties of the ruler of a petty kingdom.

An upright slate, in one of the chancels of St. Martin's, near to the tablet which records his father's decease, thus briefly commemorates, in quaint and homely phrase, the story of Alderman Robert Herick:—

"Here lyeth the bodie of Robert Herick,
Ironmonger and Alderman of Leicester,
who had been thrise Maire thereof.
Hee was eldest son of John Herick and Marie:
And had 2 sonnes and 9 daughters by one wife,
with whom he lived 51 yeares.
At his death he gave away 16 pounds, 10 shillings,
a year to good uses.
He lived 78 years:
and after dyed very godly the 14th of June, 1618.

All flesh is grass; both young and old must die;
And so we passe to judgment by and by."

Alderman Robert Herick's brother Nicholas was the second son of their parents. He was born in the year 1542. When about fourteen years of age, he was articled to a goldsmith in London. He subsequently established himself in the same business, which, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, before the professional banker was known, was often a business associated with the keeping and lend-

ing of money, and its transmission to distant places. Nicholas was the father of one of our English poets, who has been fancifully designated the "English Anacreon"—a poet whose sweet lyrics breathe a passionate love of nature, of old customs, and of rural life, and, while we read them, familiarize us with the joyous and festive life of olden time, when the merry youth disported themselves in the meadows and the groves: in whose pages the sylvan scenes of old England reappear before us in all their freshness and beauty.

As, however, it is neither with Robert Herrick, the poet, nor his father Nicholas, that this brief memoir is concerned, I pass on to William Herrick, the subject of the portrait now hanging on the right hand of the Mayor's Chair. The youngest son of John and Mary Eyrick, and their youngest child but one, he was born in the year 1562. The register of S. Martin's parish attests the fact; though some uncertainty seems to have existed in relation to it, his age having been several times misstated. When William was born, Nicholas was of age, and commencing his life's career in the great metropolis. With what principles the two were fortified to pass through the career that lay before them, we may learn from one of good old John Eyrick's letters to his son Nicholas:*

"Nicholas Eyreck," he says, "your mother and I have us commended unto you, trusting that you be in health. We do pray to God daily to bless you, and to give you grace to be good, diligent, and obedient to your master, both in word and deed; and be profitable unto him, as well behind his back as before his face; and trust nor lend none of his goods without his leave or consent; and, this doing, God will bless you and all that you go about. And if so be that you be faithful and painful in your master's business, so as I hope you to be, doubtless God will provide for you another day the like as much again. And look—how you be yourself, so look you for the like; for it is a great part of the filling of God his commandments to do as we would be done unto. I pray God to give you his grace to live in his fear; and then you shall not do amiss."

Such are the affectionate exhortations of John and Mary Herrick to their second† boy, thrown into London—then, as now, a place where peril and temptation for the young abound; and it may be fairly presumed that the after success of Nicholas, and his young brother William, were in great part attributable to an obedient and filial observance of the precepts enjoined upon them by their parents.

The boyhood of William Herrick was passed in the old house in the Market-place, where his grandfather had lived and died, where his father was born, and where his aunts and uncles also had lived.‡

* Mr. John Gough Nichols informs me that this letter was addressed to William, not to Nicholas Heyricke.

† The fifth son, if William were addressed.

‡ The home of the Herricks stood on the site of the house and premises now

Three hundred years ago, the Market-place was surrounded with old houses of timber, their gables pointing to the open area and overhanging the lower storeys, around them being gardens or plots of ground—elm trees spreading their leafy boughs across the grass-grown space, and the pinfold standing in one corner.

It was a kind of sunny social life the people then enjoyed, free from the ostentatious parade and corroding anxiety of modern times. Some of the popular sports were coarse—for they baited the bear and the bull in the Market-place; but others were less so; as, for example, when the inhabitants went a birding, with hawk on wrist, in the unenclosed fields round Leicester; and there was a simple and hearty hospitality and genuine neighbourly feeling then existing, which complete a picture somewhat different from that presented in the more refined and pretentious nineteenth century.

It was this kind of Leicester with which William Herrick was familiar in his boyish days, when he was in all probability a pupil at the Free Grammar School. But he was sent very early to London, to his brother Nicholas, where he was initiated in the business of a goldsmith. His father, writing to Nicholas, in the year 1575, says, "I have received your letter by your brother William. And I give you hearty thanks that you would send him to Leicester to see us; for your mother and I did long to see him; and so did his brothers and sisters; for the which we give you hearty thanks. We thought he had not been so tall as he is, nor never would have been."*

We here get a pleasing glimpse of the interior of the household in which William Herrick was nurtured. It was one evidently in which gentle and natural affection, and brotherly and sisterly union, reigned supreme. The boy of fifteen, springing up into the tall youth, was clearly welcomed home with equal pride and pleasure.

Three years after, his mother forwarded to him a pair of knitted hose and a pair of knitted Jersey gloves, in return for presents of marmalade, foreign fruit, and fish, which he had conveyed to her some time before. Indeed, the letters extant show that William Herrick was at this period of his life continually forwarding presents

occupied by Mr. Griffin, ironmonger. We discover the fact in this way:—In the will of Alderman Robert Heyrick, dated March 26, 1617, he desires to be "given forth of the house he dwelt in, to be paid yearly for ever," £5 into the Mayor's hands, for the purpose of purchasing loaves of bread to be distributed among the poor in all the parishes of the town. This annuity is still paid, more than two hundred and forty years after the date of the bequest, by Mr Griffin, as the owner of the house which stands where the venerable alderman's originally stood. It is the corner house of the Market-place and Cheapside. Ald. Robert Herick inherited the property from his father, John Eyrick, who purchased it from his elder brother Nicholas, who succeeded his father, Thomas, by whom it was bequeathed to Nicholas in the will made in the year 1517. Judging from the style of buildings erected at the commencement of the sixteenth century, it was probably one of four gables—two overhanging the Cheapside, two the Market-place—and a picturesque fabric.

* Nichols's History of Leicestershire, vol. ii., part 2, p. 621.

from London to his parents, manifesting warm filial affection in return for the unceasing regard they expressed to him, which shines out of these ancient messages as freshly and brightly as if the writers were alive but yesterday, instead of having been in their graves two hundred and sixty years.

When the portrait in the Mayor's Parlour to which allusion has been made, was painted, William Herrick was thirty-two years of age. As already remarked, this picture has been for some time considered to be that of a citizen of London named Bond; but the pedigree of that family does not contain any person whose age would correspond with that mentioned on the portrait. What has probably led to the supposition that the person represented was a Bond, is the introduction of the arms of that family into the picture, in one corner, and upon the signet-ring worn on one of the fingers of the subject. As, however, a ring with the same arms upon it appears by the will of old Robert Heyricke to have been in his possession, and as the Bond shield is figured on the wainscot of an old pew in Woodhouse chapel with William Herrick's initials above it—thus showing that the brothers at one time committed the not uncommon mistake of appropriating their mother's armorial insignia—it is very probable the same error was fallen into by the artist who painted William Herrick's portrait. That the latter was a member of the Goldsmith's Company when his likeness was executed is tolerably certain, and this accounts for the appearance of the arms of the Company by the side of those of Bond. There is little difficulty, therefore, in coming to the conclusion that the second portrait was that of William Herrick.

He had now become a prosperous man, having evidently for some time left the house of his brother Nicholas, and entered on an independent career. In the ten or twelve years following the attainment of his majority, he had amassed considerable wealth, for he purchased the estate at Beaumanor from the agents of Robert, Earl of Essex, in 1595, when he was only a year older than he is seen to be in his portrait. In another year the new proprietor of Beaumanor married Joan May, daughter of Richard May, Esq., a citizen of London, and sister of Sir Humphrey May, Knight, once Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He now renewed his connection with his native town, and became enrolled on the list of freemen, giving to the Mayor "in kindness" twelve silver spoons, with the cinquefoil upon the knobs of them, instead of the usual fee of 10s. Shortly afterwards, in the year 1601, Mr. Herrick was elected one of the Burgesses in Parliament, with Mr. Belgrave, of Belgrave, and remained in that position until the decease of Queen Elizabeth, in March, 1603. In that year, Sir Henry Skipwith and Sir Henry Beaumont of Gracedieu were elected to represent Leicester in Parliament. In the early part of the year 1605 William Herrick was knighted by King James, and he was a second time returned member

for Leicester in the place of Sir Henry Beaumont, who deceased in the month of October of the same year. At this time also he was appointed to an office in the royal jewel-house,* having for one of his coadjutors George Heriot—the "jingling Geordie" with whom Scott has rendered us delightfully familiar in his "Fortunes of Nigel," who was the contemporary, and in some sort the rival, of Sir William Herrick; who himself must have seen as much of the eccentric and pedantic monarch as Heriot did in his frequent intercourse with royalty. The owner of Beaumanor was now as frequently a resident in the metropolis as in the country, for he was appointed a Teller of the Exchequer about the same date as that under review; and in this capacity, as in that of the great capitalist and court banker of the age, whose money was lent alike to the king, the noble, the peeress, and the commoner, he cannot help but have been constantly employed.

He was not however a mere sordid money maker; since we find his services were sought by the inhabitants of Leicester in affairs of importance, and by him freely given. He lent his valuable assistance—his "great paynes and care"—in the purchase of the Grange, near this town; for which the whole Corporation acknowledged themselves "bound unto him," and which services Mr. Manby, the Mayor, said "all succeeding ages" would have great cause to acknowledge. He was, besides, mainly instrumental in the incorporating of Trinity Hospital. The numerous and important benefits conferred upon the borough by Sir William Herrick led to the declaration by the Chief Magistrate, and his compeers in the municipal body, in 1616, that they were beholden to him, not only in regard to the affairs of Trinity Hospital, but for "divers others" his "loving favours" manifested unto them and the whole Corporation, and they desired the continuance of his kind favours; "for," they added, "upon yourself we and our whole corporation are bold wholly to rely, without which we know not what might befall us."

In the year 1620, the worthy knight was a third time elected member for Leicester, with Sir Richard Morison, Knight, Master of the Ordnance. In the letter to Mr. Pares, the Mayor, (still extant,) in which he returns thanks, he characteristically writes: "It is a sentence in the Gospel that there were ten lepers cleansed, but there was only one that returned to give thanks. I wish I may be that one; for of all vices I would not be counted ungrateful. I acknowledge your love to me in chosing me your burgess; and I speak it with truth, never any did with better alacrity attend that service than myself did."

This paper would be extended much beyond the limits of such a memoir as can be offered to the notice of a meeting like the present,

* *Nichols's Leicestershire*, vol. iii., part 1, page 150, note 6.

were all to be included in it that could be said of Sir William Herrick. It must therefore be brought to a close. On the Knight's retirement from Parliament, he seems to have sought the tranquil enjoyments of a country life in his mansion, surrounded by the noble oaks of Charnwood Forest. There he dwelt until the year of his decease in 1653, aged 91, surrounded by his children's children's children, as his venerable mother Mary Eyrick was, when—at the age of 97—she died in 1611, having seen before her departure one hundred and forty-two of her descendants.

It is here worthy of mention, that since the decease of Sir William Herrick, the estate of Beaumanor has passed in regular succession through the hands of five other William Herricks, whose united ages yield an average to each of 76 years; the present proprietor (Wm. Perry-Herrick, Esq.) being the seventh link in the genealogical chain, and enjoying the prospect of a longevity equal to that of any of his forefathers. The late William Heyrick, Esq., of Thurmaston, the last male representative in the direct line of Ald. Robert Herrick, died, it will be remembered, at a good old age, a few years ago.

Enough will, I think, have been said to show that the portraits of the brothers Herrick, preserved in the old Guildhall of Leicester, are those of two Town Worthies; to whose efforts in the past, we of the present day are indebted for the preservation and extension of our municipal heritage. To such men we may point as to those who greatly helped to build up the fabric of local self-government, in the reigns of the Tudors and Stuarts, and who, by their civic services, their public benevolence, their patriotic spirit, and, last but not least, their exemplary domestic lives, showed the worth existing in human nature. Sincere but unostentatious; austere in profession but genial in practice; rigid in creed but tolerant in heart—these municipal magnates of the Puritan times come down to us as types illustrative of ancient manners and forgotten principles, the study of which may serve to stimulate and instruct their successors; and in an age in which men live in large towns, of which the government becomes every day more complicated and more important, examples of simple life, of elevated integrity, and of love of doing one's duty for its own sake, may well be brought before us, even from the graves of men of the seventeenth contury, to excite our admiration and to enkindle our emulation. We need not turn to the cities of ancient Greece, nor to the turbulent municipalities of ancient Italy, for models of human conduct, while we have had in our own towns patterns of private and public virtue, more homely perhaps than those described by the classic historians, but more true to nature, safer to imitate, and, being of our own race, better acquainted with the wants and requirements of the people of their age, who only differed from the people of our age in being placed in circumstances

varying from ours, but who were identical with us in all the essentials of national character.

29th July, 1861.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby in the chair.

Mr. James Thompson having communicated the information that Mr. John Gough Nichols had collected and arranged the ancient letters in the possession of Mr. Perry-Herrick, the following motion was adopted:—

"That, in the opinion of this Society, the extracts from the letters of the members of the Herrick family, used at the late *soirée*, indicated that the letters possessed great local interest and value, and therefore the publication of the whole series would be viewed with pleasure by this Society."

It was reported that arrangements were completed for holding a General Meeting at Lutterworth on the 18th and 19th of September next.

Mr. James Thompson further made some observations relative to the value of the past transactions of the Society, and advocated their publication.

The following articles, antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By Mr. Ordish, a chromo-lithograph of Ecclesiastical and Domestic Furniture, designed by the late Mr. Pugin, and shown at the exhibition of 1851. Mr. Ordish presented the picture to the Society.

By Mr. Hunt, an ancient coin, found near the church at Humberstone. On examination it proved to be a Nuremberg jetton, issued by Damian Krauwinckel, and probably of the fifteenth century. These jettons or tokens are found abundantly all over the country. They were coined by the eminent merchants of Nuremberg, when that great city was the emporium of European commerce, and when they had dealings with merchants in all parts of the world. A great variety of articles were made there, and hence the couplet:

> "Nuremberg's hand
> Goes through every land."

The frequency of the finding of these tokens in England is in some measure accounted for by their having formerly been commonly used as counters.

By Mr. Thompson, a manuscript book, containing the rent-roll of Philip Sherard, Esq., of Teigh, in the county of Rutland, of which he gave the following account:—

A very curious manuscript book has been lent to me for exhibition to this Society. It is a "Survey of all the lands and hereditaments of Philip Sherard, son and heir of Francis Sherard, Esq., lying and being within the town and fields of Teigh, in the county of Rutland" drawn up by William Wallis, surveyor of Stamford in the year 1597. The Philip Sherard, Esq., here mentioned, was the ancestor of the late Earl of Harborough, among whose muniments the volume was discovered.

Not only is there in it a minute mention of every portion of the Teigh estate; but there are besides small maps exhibiting detached parts, which are examples of the water colouring, the ornamental caligraphy, and the surveyor's drawing of two hundred and sixty-four years bygone. At the end of the book is a list of the tenants, with the amount of the occupation of each, whether in meadow or pasture land. The names of the tenants are Richard Barrow, Richard Dinge, Nicholas Coale, John Squire, Thomas Taylor, Thomas Whittle, Michael Gray, William Fowler, William Roe (rector), William Ecoppe, William Aswell, William Pullen, Widow Hitchcock, Widow Conyborowe, Thomas Ecoppe, Widow Roe, John Briggs, John Yates, Robert Rudkin, Edward Cowper, William Pyne, Richard Greene, Richard Wade, William Berye, William Wensley, Widow Pickwell, John Dalbye, and William Smythe. The total acreage was 1,118 acres, 17 perches.

I need scarcely say that documents like that before us have an antiquarian value which should ensure their preservation by their owners. To the topographer and genealogist they are eminently serviceable in throwing light on village history. The names of the tenants are probably represented to-day in Teigh by the descendants of their former possessors; though I should say I am here speaking in entire ignorance of the locality. Should it prove to be so, it will add another proof to the many I have met with of families (not those merely of the nobility and gentry, but of the yeomanry and farmers) residing on the same spot, and pursuing the same avocations, for successive centuries—showing how, without the influence of a caste system (like that of Oriental nations), the inhabitants of this country, owing to their practical character, innate tendencies, and stability of purpose, maintain the distinction of classes and of occupations.

By the Rev. J. H. Hill, a series of photographs of windows designed by Messrs. Lavers and Baraud and Messrs. Heaton and Buckler of London; also, a portion of a bayonet, corroded by age, and an ancient spur, found near Glooston. The bayonet is said to have been invented in the latter half of the seventeenth century, and to have received its name from Bayonne, in the south of France. The relic exhibited appeared to have been fastened upon a piece of wood, portions of decayed fibres still adhering to the socket. The spur was of the kind which is seen figured on

the sculptured effigies of the early part of the fifteenth century, and was used by horsemen about the time when the Wars of the Roses were being carried on in this country.

By Mr. T. Nevinson, a coin of the reign of Queen Anne. It was about the size of a farthing. On the obverse was the head of the queen; on the reverse, the date 1711, with the usual abbreviated legend—REG. MAG. BR. FR. HIB. &c. The coin is of copper, but has been washed over with gold. The impression of the Society was that the coin had been gilded over for the purposes of deception. (*Vide* Humphreys' *Manual* upon the coins of Queen Anne.)

Mr. Wm. Jackson (architect) read the following Paper upon

THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF S. MARGARET'S CHURCH, LEICESTER.

The remarks which I am about to read upon the Architectural History of S. Margaret's Church, if I may use so dignified a title, were first suggested to me during the progress of collecting some examples of Gothic mouldings, which are here particularly good and characteristic, and to which I shall have occasion hereafter to refer. In the course of this collateral study, I was struck by the singular and gradual progression, in point of date, in these mouldings, from the east end of the church, down the south side of the nave and south aisle, and thence to the north side; and being thus led to seek for information from our usual local authorities, I learnt only that no satisfactory account was to be found, and that no materials were believed to be in existence, from which an authentic history could be written. These remarks are offered, therefore, as an attempt to work out the problem, which, under such circumstances, the peculiar and fragmentary examples now remaining in the church proposed to my mind.

The early history of S. Margaret's, like that of many other churches, carries the mind back to the most remote period in the annals of our country. It is not of that time, however, I have now to speak, except as it is naturally suggested by an attempt to explain several peculiarities in the structure as it now stands. Nothing, indeed, remains of that early period except the dim record of a cathedral which stood here in the seventh century. Leland records that in his time a portion of the Bishop's palace yet stood by the church—"the fairest parish church of Leicester;" though I should think it more probable that what Leland saw were the remains of the vicarage, of the endowment of which Nichols gives a copy, dated 1276,—and that these remains were finally dispersed in 1568, when Mr. John Lounde, the vicar, repaired the house, and with the consent of his loving parishioners "dyd extyrpe

and pull down all monuments of superstytyone out of the said prebendall church."* Nichols also quotes the register of Bishop Alnwyke, which describes the alteration and reparation of 1444; and our modern historians make the most of the same materials, and of the alabaster monument (which now adorns the chancel) of Bishop Peny, who died in 1520. But the structure itself preserves some indications of a history which appears to have quite escaped any written record.

It is certain that there was a Saxon building here, from the statement in Domesday Book, that two of the churches, out of six then in the town, were given to the Bishop of Lincoln by the Norman Conqueror: it being clear that S. Margaret's was one of these, from the record (quoted by Nichols, 1110) that "Robert de Beaumont repaired St. Mary's church, and placed there a dean and twelve secular canons, restored their possessions, and appropriated to them all the churches in Leicester, *except St. Margaret's*, which was of the See of Lincoln."

This Saxon church, then, or such remains of one as had escaped the successive ravages of the Danes during the tenth century, and containing doubtless some "Norman" additions, stood here about the year 1110; but doubtless, also, in a dilapidated condition, from the above-named causes, and from the effects of the warlike visits of William the Conqueror, and of his son and successor, William Rufus, who "took vengeance on the town (A.D. 1088) in retaliation for assistance given by the Earl of Leicester to the king's elder brother Robert."

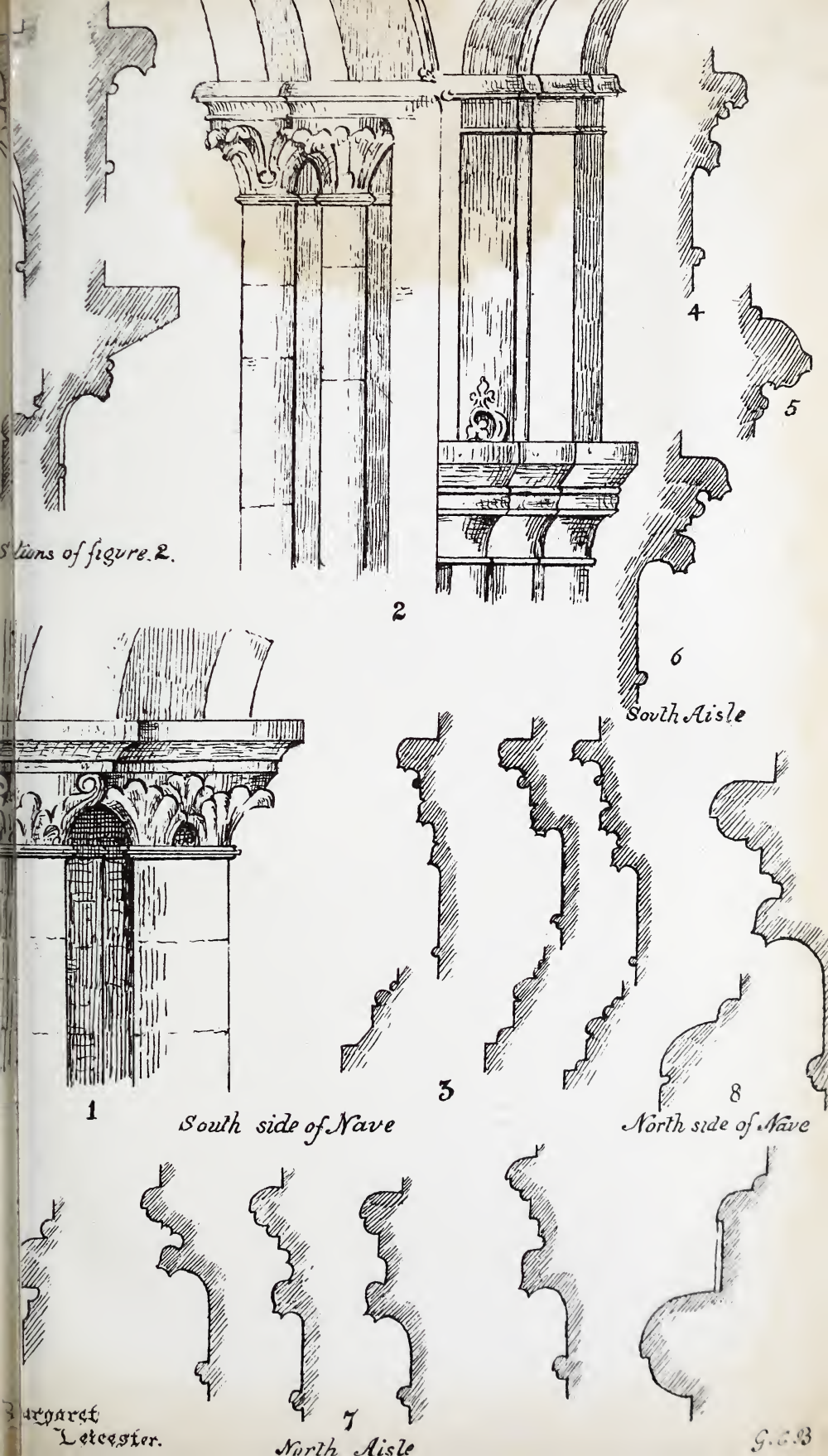
About the year 1120, Robert Bossu succeeded his father as Earl of Leicester, and Nichols, and tradition, have both assigned to him the figure in the niche on the northward side of the east window; and both also say that he built part of this church—the first statement certainly wrong, the other probably right; but if the tradition be true, what part did the Earl build? not "the oldest remaining part, the last bay eastward of the nave," if Mr. Poole be correct as to its date, as about A.D. 1200; and *if not that*, certainly no other part, for Earl Bossu died in the year 1168. But, on the supposition that he did build that east bay of the nave (and there is nothing, I think, in its style of architecture to make that supposition improbable, but the contrary) a great deal of otherwise unaccountable detail becomes reconciled. Thus:—Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, finding S. Margaret's Church in a very dilapidated condition, pulled down the old Saxon and Norman remains, and recommenced building from the chancel arch; but the work was stopped by his death, 1168; stopped, also, by the treason of his son, who conspired against the king, Henry II.; and by that king's vengeance, who, for two years, 1173-5, demolished the town and neighbourhood.

* Nichols.

This supposition accounts, I think, for one great peculiarity in the church, viz., that the east bay of the nave only remains of the semi-Norman style.

Apart, however, from any historical association, this east bay of the nave is itself a most curious study; and it will be remarked first, that the south-east pier is the only one remaining intact of the original design; the others, in addition to their having been under the hand of the modern "restorer," were, I think, originally copies of the south-east pier by another hand—curiously so, too, for it will be seen that the square abacus of the old capital becomes, in the others, a truncated roll and fillet; the plain, slightly articulated leafage becomes the more elaborate foliage—and the chamfered neck-mould, the small annular moulding. (Fig. 1 and 2.) The other piers are also curious:—obviously built, or put together at three different times;—it is equally clear, I think, that the capital, half-way down the western side, is the earliest; the eastern half next in date; and the western upper capital the latest. It will be observed that the early hood-mould is continued down to the springing line of the arch; not as it would be if this capital had been continued in the ordinary way, merely to the intersection of the adjoining hood-mould; and this leads me to think that the lower capital was originally continued with arches at its present level down the nave, and that the builder, who took up the work commenced by Robert Bossu, pulled down this nave, leaving only the east pier, which had been incorporated with the semi-Norman alteration in the way we now see it.

The next earliest part is the south side of the nave, and this is also quite distinct in character and date from any other part; and it is curious to observe, in parish churches, how commonly this is the case—that one side of the nave differs in date from the other side. Here we have the "nail-head" decoration of the arch, the double-bell and plain neck-mould of the capital indicating a date early in the thirteenth century. One of these capitals (the second from the tower) differs from the others, having only a single "bell;" and its neck-moulding being the common truncated roll, instead of the three-quarter annular moulding. It is, however, so clearly similar in general character to the adjoining work, and there are, besides, no evidences of its being of another period, that I think it must be regarded as a singular instance of the early use of the details in question. (Fig. 3.) This side of the nave is generally thought to be the finest part of the church: its chaste and elegant capitals, and deeply-recessed arches, alternating with small moulded ribs; its hood-mould filled with the characteristic dog-tooth ornament, with foliated terminals, make one regret that the other side of the nave does not remain in the same style—regret too, the destruction of the west bay, which was done, apparently,



tions of figure 2.
2
4
5
6
South Aisle
1
South side of Nave
3
8
North side of Nave
7
North Aisle
argaret
Leicester.
G.C.B

at the time when the tower was built, as if to force into notice the singular contrast in the moulded work of the two periods.

Turning next to the south aisle, we find a difference from the style of the south side of the nave, in the "double bell" and the "nail-head ornament" being no longer employed. With this exception, however, there is a similarity in the mouldings; the abacus being the truncated roll and fillet, and the neck the bold three-quarter annular moulding. (Fig. 6.) The bases and string-course are "restored" ones, and it is questionable whether their true contour has been preserved. As regards the bases, they are of some form that belongs, I think, to no period of architecture whatever; and, as respects the string-course, there is no other example of the "scroll moulding" in this part of the church.

The cincture in the jamb-shaft at the east end of this aisle, and indeed, the whole of the details of these rere-arches and capitals are quite worth remark: nothing, indeed, could be better, probably, for their place and purpose; stopping short of needless elaboration, yet quite sufficient to produce a chaste and rich effect, and to indicate the thought bestowed upon them; nothing, either, could be more clearly indicative of the style of the destroyed mullions and tracery; and nothing more conclusive that the plain, heavy, chamfered mullions which have lately been inserted, are quite out of character.

Passing westward we have, in the "neck-moulding" of the last window in this aisle, (Fig. 4) the first indication of the later style which prevails in the whole of the north aisle, and, on the north side of the nave, indicated by the "scroll moulding" of the abacus and neck of the capitals, by the more simple form of section, by the base mouldings projecting over the line of the plinth, and by other details. The date of this work I should suppose to be the early part of the fourteenth century. (Figs. 7 and 8.)

At the east of this aisle is a curious capital, growing, as it were, out of the pier, at about the same level as the lower capitals in the east bay of the nave before alluded to; but this, also, has been under the hand of the "restorer," and it is very doubtful whether the original foliation was not of earlier character; the square abacus rather leads to the belief that such was the case.

Another point deserving attention, in this place, is the curious variety, as well as the symmetrical beauty, of these mouldings:—although, on a cursory view, they seem all alike, as, indeed, they are generically; it will be found, on examination, that the form of section is varied in almost every instance. It will scarcely be doubted, I think, that the builder who exhibited so much fertility of design in this matter, would fail in the more striking feature of window tracery, and yet, I understand that in the proposed restoration of this aisle, one design is to be repeated in the whole six openings.

The history of the remaining part of the church is well known from the register of Bishop Alnwyke, quoted by our local historians; from which it appears that the tower and chancel were built about the year 1444.

I have thus endeavoured to lessen the hiatus which exists in the history of S. Margaret's Church, between the time of "Domesday Book" and the register of Bishop Alnwyke, so far as a careful examination of the simple yet characteristic details of the building will permit; and I have also endeavoured to explain the architectural problem by an historical parallel, which accounts for the tradition that Robert Bossu built part of this church. In conclusion, permit me to remark upon the wide field into which the enquiry has introduced us: we step at once, by the help of these apparently unimportant stones, into the province of universal history: we pass in review the first Christian edifice which arose here in the remote and barbarous ages of our country: we account for its disappearance by the savage and successive ravages of the heathen Danes; for its rebuilding after the Norman Conquest; and for its partial destruction during and in consequence of the feudal times; and these are all matters of universal interest,—interest which cannot fail to derive additional importance to us from being thus localized; whilst, at the same time, the veneration we owe the fabric cannot fail to be increased from being thus palpably connected with some of the most important events which have occurred in the history of the world.

GENERAL MEETING AT LUTTERWORTH.

26th and 27th September, 1861.

The Rev. J. P. Marriott, President.

To a casual observer Lutterworth might appear to offer few attractions to claim the visit of the members of an Architectural and Archæological Society. It is a small market town on the banks of a small river, the Swift, which soon discharges itself into its better known neighbour the Avon. Its ancient hospital has long since passed away, and there is, apparently, nothing to attract the attention of the visitor but its church, and even that is robbed of much of its dignity, symmetry, and beauty by the loss of its noble spire. These are the impressions upon the mind of a mere passer-by. To the thoughtful observer, to the antiquary, to the student of history, in short, to every one feeling the least interest in the antecedents of the locality, the town of Lutterworth, and more

especially its neighbourhood, offer suggestions, and evidences at once valuable and interesting.

Possessing neither the Baron's Castle, nor the Abbey, Priory, or even Monastery of the Church, Lutterworth does not appear upon the pages of mediæval history so prominently as do some other towns of no greater magnitude in this county. It appears in Domesday-Book under the name of *Lutresurde*. Soon after the Norman Conquest the manor of Lutterworth passed into the hands of the Verdon family, Nicholas of that name founding there, in the reign of King John, a hospital dedicated to S. John the Baptist, for one priest and six poor men, and also endowing it with means to "keep hospitality for poor men travelling that way." This Hospital stood adjoining to lands in the parish of Misterton called the Warren, being divided from the town of Lutterworth by the river. At the dissolution of the monasteries this hospital was sold, and the lands and mills leased to the Faunts. There are now no remains of the ancient fabric standing. About the middle of the fourteenth century the manor of Lutterworth appears to have passed by marriage into the family of Ferrers of Groby. Sir William Ferrers de Groby, in 1414, obtained the grant of a fair at Lutterworth, to be holden upon Ascension-day, whence it was called Lord Ferrers' holiday: it is also said he at the same time obtained a grant of a weekly market. From the Ferrers' family the manor passed to the Greys, and from them—upon the attainder of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk—through the crown, after some lapse of time, to the corporation of London, who, in the year 1629, sold it to Basil Feilding, Esq., whose family had from ancient time been connected with Lutterworth, and which family, in the person of the present Earl of Denbigh, is now in possession of the manor.

The church of Lutterworth, both as a building, and from its intimate connection with Wycliffe, the "Morning Star of the Reformation," will always claim earnest attention, but neither the edifice nor the man whose name will ever be associated with it, must here receive more than this cursory allusion, because the remarks of Mr. Bloxam, and others, upon these interesting topics will be given hereafter; after reading which, it will be seen that Lutterworth is not without strong claims upon our attention and study, and not an unfit place for a visit from the members of an Archæological Society. If this may be said of the town of Lutterworth, much more may be said of its neighbourhood. It is situated near to the Watling Street, that great Roman road constructed by the early conquerors and civilizers of this country, to enable them to extend their conquests and hold their new acquisitions,—it is within an easy walk of Claybrooke, which, whether it were anciently the great Roman city as described by Burton or not, was unquestionably a Roman station, evidences of which from time to time are being thrown up by the earth in the shape of coins, &c., &c. High Cross,

too, where the Fosse and the Watling Street intersect each other, is not far distant; while, on the other side of Lutterworth, the Roman Tripontium is within easy access. It will thus be seen that this is a large field for the enquirer into the Roman history of this country, and no barren field either, as will be seen from the very many Roman antiquities found in the neighbourhood and exhibited at Lutterworth. Neither is it the Roman period of our history alone which this neighbourhood brings before the curious visitor, mediæval times—the "dark ages"—are not without their tokens in the many beautiful churches adorning the landscape in this locality, and the works of art they contain, monuments alike to the piety and the artistic skill of their founders and builders; Misterton and Stanford churches, for instance, may be cited, as speaking, in eloquent silence, of the times which saw their rise, and which certainly bid us pause and well consider before we speak with too much certainty of that "darkness" for which the period of their erection has become so proverbial. Then, again, in Theddingworth church—within the limits of a day's excursion—we have a proof that the old spirit of self-sacrifice, and of reverence and esteem for God's house, is still alive in this country, and that the architectural skill, and the taste for the beautiful, which so distinguished the church builders in the middle ages, is not now lost, but these shine forth in a manner at once pleasing and heart cheering, not only to the man of taste, but to all who wish to see the services of the Church conducted in buildings at once worthy of Him who is there worshipped, and of the Church whose time-honoured Offices are therein performed; and for those whose tastes lead them to contemplate the stern realities of life,—the rise and fall of men and the things of men,—the Field of Naseby offers a rich page of history. Such being the attractions of Lutterworth and its neighbourhood members would learn with satisfaction of the intended visit of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society there, on the days indicated above.*

The proceedings were opened on Thursday, the 26th of September, by a meeting of the Committee of the Society in the anteroom of the Town Hall, when the following new members were elected:—The Revs. J. P. Marriott, rector of Cottesbach; John Halford, of Wistow; H. K. Richardson, rector of Leire, and rural dean; M. Cochan, of Dunton Bassett; Thomas Cox, of Kimcote Rectory; H. Fox, of Lutterworth: Thomas Watson, Esq., and Messrs. Charles Burdett, W. Footman, Charles J. Lea, G. S. Wardley, of Lutterworth, and Mr. Joseph Goddard (architect), Leicester. The Rev. J. O. Stuart was elected an honorary member.

* This introduction to the formal report of the Proceedings at this Meeting was furnished at the time by the Hon. Secretary to a local newspaper, and is now reprinted.

LUTTERWORTH CHURCH.

Shortly after twelve o'clock, a large party assembled in the Parish Church, to hear Mr. M. H. Bloxam's extemporaneous account of the fabric and its contents.*

MISTERTON CHURCH.

After a short interval, a large party of ladies and gentlemen, headed by Mr. Bloxam proceeded over the fields to Misterton, crossing on their way the little river Swift into which the ashes of the first English Reformer were cast, after his dead body had been exhumed and burnt, to show the blind and impotent fanaticism of his enemies. The distance of Misterton from Lutterworth is one mile, over a rich undulating country, studded with good ash timber; the appearance of the fine broach spire, as the church is approached, is extremely picturesque. Upon entering the edifice, Mr. Bloxam remarked that it,—that is the nave and two aisles—like Lutterworth, was built in the fourteenth century. The chancel being, as was very apparent, of a later poriod. The appearance of the church, after Lutterworth, was quite refreshing, being much more in its original state, there being no galleries, and many of the open seats of the fifteenth century being still preserved. The arches of the nave were without any capitals, an occurrence not at all uncommon in the fifteenth and previous century. The hood and all the mouldings in the church were remarkably good. The south aisle was formerly a chantry chapel, divided from the nave by a handsome screen, large portions of the lower part of which were left; the founder was buried under an archway at the side. The piscina was still remaining, and some small pieces of good stained glass of the fourteenth century, coeval with the church, were well worth attention. On the south side of the church was pointed out the doorway and staircase leading to the "Domus inclusus," or chamber, over the south porch (still existing), which was formerly the residence of a recluse. The open seats of the fifteenth century were specimens of good carving, and all required careful examination, many being richly decorated with armorial bearings and religious emblems and devices, such as the five wounds, &c., &c. The base of the rood-loft was inspected, and the entrances to it, below and above pointed out. A handsome altar tomb, in the church, attracted much attention. It commemorates "Mychel Pulteney, Esquire," who, dying in 1577, has the usual termination to monumental inscriptions, prevalent during the predominance of

* As the account then given was more elaborated in the Paper read by that gentleman at the evening meeting, and which is given hereafter, it is unnecessary to preserve his remarks here.

Roman Catholic opinions, thus qualified upon his tomb, "On whose soulle the Lorde *hathe* taken mercy."

THE MUSEUM.

At one o'clock the temporary museum at the Town Hall was opened to the public. Its contents were of a varied character; the space at the disposal of the Committee prevented the display of all the objects offered for exhibition, but it will be seen from an abstract given below that the tables were covered with articles of considerable value and beauty, and that a variety of objects of great local and general interest were collected together, speaking well for the good conservative spirit of the neighbourhood—by conservative spirit is meant a due regard and care for all objects illustrative of the daily lives of our forefathers, and of the circumstances under which they lived.

Among the chief contributors to the museum, and from the large collection of objects exhibited the following are noted:—

By the Earl of Denbigh: Letters written by, or addressed to, the members of the Feilding family during the time of William and Basil, the two first Earls of Denbigh, 2 MS. vols. folio. Letters and other papers chiefly addressed to, or written by the Earl of Denbigh during the civil wars, 2 MS. vols. folio. Portrait of the Countess of Desmond, taken at the age of 121; she died aged 140; she danced with Richard III. as a young person, and she has left record that he was not humpbacked; artist unknown. Portrait of Queen Anne Boleyn, by Holbein. Portrait of Sir Robert Cotton, founder of the Cottonian Library; artist unknown. Portrait of Mary, Countess of Denbigh, wife of Basil, sixth Earl, and daughter of Sir Robert Cotton, drawn in chalks by Sir Thomas Lawrence when he was thirteen years old. The lady was staying at the Inn at Devizes, and the innkeeper's wife asked her to sit to her little boy; hence the portrait. Alleged portrait of Wycliffe; artist unknown. Portrait of the Infanta of Spain, by Balthazar Gerbier, brought over to England by Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, when sent to Spain to negociate the proposed marriage of the Infanta with Prince Charles —afterward Charles I. of England. The dagger with which Felton stabbed the Duke of Buckingham, 23rd August, 1628, given by the Duke's valet to the first Lady Denbigh, the Duke's sister.

By Mr. M. H. Bloxam: First Edition of Robinson Crusoe, 1719, 8vo. 2 vols., very rare. Sir Thomas Lawrence, when a boy, drawn by himself. Portrait of Thomas Wilson, son of the Bishop of Sodor and Man; Paul Veronese. Portrait of a lady (*temp.* Mary); Michael Angelo. Anglo-Saxon beads from the Watling Street. Anglo-Saxon sepulchral remains, from near Brentford-bridge, Warwickshire. Anglo-Saxon fibula, &c. Roman remains and glass from Caves Inn. Key found in a grave six feet deep at Irby-upon-Humber, placed upon the breastbone of a corpse of great stature. Roman steelyard weight found near Combe Abbey. Roman bull's head and key of

bronze found at Princethorpe. Ancient bronze dagger (Celtic period). Irish celts, primitive type. Palstrave, secondary form. Celt-loop-eyed or tertiary form of celt. Socketed spear head. Ancient celtic bronze sword.

By H. Payne, Esq. (Leicester) alleged portrait of Wycliffe.

By the Rev. J. H. Hill: The portraitures of his sacred Majesty Charles I., 12mo., 1649. Mastin's History of Naseby, with engravings, &c. Light of a painted glass window representing the first act of mercy, "I was an hungered and ye gave me meat," by Lavers, London. Engraving of Charles I. from Vandyke's celebrated picture. Engraving of Henrietta Maria, from a painting by Vandyke. These engravings hung for many years in the parsonage at Naseby. Engravings of Gaston de Foix and Admiral de Biron, from the collection of the late Cosmo Neville, Esq. Bombshell found at Naseby forty years ago, when the parish was enclosed. Ancient spur ploughed up at Arnesby, Lincolnshire, where the royalist troops were defeated by Cromwell in 1642. Early bayonet, found at Glooston. Skillett or trulla of bronze, the handle perforated with a trefoil for suspension. Handle of a vessel of bronze with the figure of a youth. Elegant striated handle of a Roman vessel found at Hallaton. Upper portion of a præfericulum or jug, of fine workmanship, with a band of foliated ornaments round the neck. Straight reeded handle of a patera of bronze terminating in a ram's head. Three Roman vessels, called Lachrymatories, or Unguentaria, used as receptacles for perfumes, or some other usual accompaniments of a funereal deposit. Hand bricks or props, found in Orby-in-the-Marsh, Lincolnshire, under a marine alluvial deposit at the depth of four feet: these bricks were used in the manufacture of hardware. Series of photographs of stained glass windows.

By Mr. W. Jackson (architect, Leicester): Pen and ink, and other architectural drawings.

By the Rev. Canon James: Two oriental swords and shields. Engraved antique gem. Gold medal of Fairfax. Silver Buddhist symbol. Two oriental jugs, silver and gold. Impression of mediæval seal. Silver counter of Charles and Henrietta. Two battle axes. Illuminated MS. copy of Koran, Persic.

By the Rev. J. P. Marriott: Roman and English coins. Encaustic tiles, and head of a figure in chain armour upon glass, from Cottesbach Church. Anglo Saxon spear from Watling Street. British bolt or axe head from Cottesbach. Anglo Saxon fibulæ, clasps, dice, beads, &c. Anglo Saxon boss of shield from Watling Street. Roman flue tiles. Roman pottery found in a gravel pit near Caves' Inn. Fragments of Saxon ware. Roman amphoræ, or urn vessels. MS. copy of the works of Wycliffe, collected in the last century.

By Mr. H. Goddard (architect, Leicester): Bible presented by Cromwell to the officers of the parliamentary troops, 1653, 24mo. Thomas à Kempis' works, 1659. Two very handsome antique gold watches. Silver watch found near Prince's Risborough, Bucks., the residence of Edward the Black Prince, "The Annunciation" on the lid, "The walk to Emmaus" on the back. Tortoiseshell box inlaid with silver. Boxes carved in ebony, eighteenth century. Vinegarette, carved upon the nut of a species of the palm (*temp.* Charles I.). Ancient

key found at Wilmslow, Cheshire, 1840. Ancient keys. Old bronze. Silver spoon (hall mark 1600). Clay crucifix found in Bosworth churchyard. Roman lachrymatories, very fine. Memorial of Charles I., formerly in the possession of the Digby family (bronze). Two oval triptychs. Roman fibula found in Leicester. Early British bone ornaments and celt. Fragments of bronze from Leicester. Roman scissors found in Leicester.

By the Rev. A. Pownall: Facsimile of the death warrant of Mary Queen of Scots. A fine collection of English coins. Kemmeridge coal money. Dish of Palissy ware. Impression of the Great Seal of England, *temp.* Edward III., 1327-1377. Cross of the Order of S. Benedict. English, Roman, and foreign coins and medals. Medal of Queen Anne. Mite of James I., 1603. Coins found in the neighbourhood of Lutterworth. Medal of Augustus Adolphus. Sword ploughed up at Naseby. Roman Stylus.

By Dr. Goodacre: Views of ancient buildings in Leicestershire. Dixon's Geology of Sussex, London, 1850, 4to. Purchas's Directorium Anglicanum, 1858, 4to. Father Tiber.

By T. B. Goodacre, Esq.: Model of the Portland vase. Model of Coton font. Bronze key, fourteenth century, found in a field near High Cross, in 1859. Armlet, dug up at Newton. Portion of a Roman composite millstone. Bronze patera. Pocket book, with clasp, and portrait of the late Queen of France. Ring, supposed to have been a Queen's pledge, from Henrietta Maria, to some one for money borrowed. Model of the Warwick vase.

By the Rev. T. Sankey: Breeches' Bible. Latimer's Sermons. Ancient missal. Early newspaper.

By the Rev. H. K. Richardson: Ancient album, on vellum, with water colour paintings. Venetian glass of the sixteenth century. Silver medallion of Charles I., on tortoiseshell.

By the Rev. H. Cockin: Alabaster statues of S. Andrew and S. Catherine from Glastonbury Abbey. Ancient kettle and lamp. Ladies' dresses. Incense pan. Mounted drinking horn. Earthenware mug, bearing the inscription "A. Pope."

By the Rev. M. Cockin: Snuffers and stand, formerly in the possession of the Company of Soap Makers. Agate handled knife and fork. Facsimile in lithograph of certain rolls brought from Herculaneum. Box of lava from Mount Vesuvius. Silver plate of the seventeenth century.

By T. Watson, Esq.: Charter of Philip le Lardiner to his father, of messuage and land at Melton, near York, 1286. Charter of the twelfth century, granted by John de Deane to the monks of Combe Abbey, of the mill at Wlwich (Willey). Pistol barrel from Naseby.

By the Rev. T. Cox: Needle book used by Queen Elizabeth. Ancient watch belonging to a Queen of Bohemia, taken as spoil in battle.

By the Rev. E. Woodcock: Brass rubbing of Sir Roger de Trumpington, 1289; of Richard de Buslingthorpe, 1289; of a knight from Croft Church, 1360; of Lawrence de St. Maw, from Higham Ferrers Church, 1337; and of Robert Braund, merchant of Lynn, with his two wives, 1364, the feast of peacocks at the bottom.

By T. Nevinson, Esq.: Brass rubbings of Abbot Delamere, from S. Alban's Abbey, and of various brasses in Stoke D'Aubernon, Cobham, and other churches.

By the Rev. J. E. Colyer: Rubbings of brasses, viz.: Thomas Crawley, Archbishop of Dublin; Thomas Goodrick, Bishop of Ely; Adam de Bacon, Henry Sever, priests; Sir John de Creke and lady, Westly Waterless, 1320; Sir Robert Staunton and lady; Philip de Byschoppe; two rubbings from a monument in Welmore Church to the memory of Captain Hodges, who was killed at the siege of Antwerp, 1563.

By Mr. Mills: Madrigal book, dedicated to Lord Feilding, 1637. Portion of a waistcoat worn by James I.

By the Hon. Mrs. Richardson: Testament and Prayer Book, 1628, 24mo.

By the Rev. R. Willan: MS. Bible of the twelfth century.

By Mr. John Deakins: Theory of the earth, by Thomas Bunet, 1584. Leicester Castle, by James Thompson, 1865. Book of Devotions (*temp.* James I.) Quarle. Speed's England and Wales. Facsimile of the death warrant of Charles I.

By Mr. Wardley: Watercolour drawing of the house in which Latimer was born.

By Mr. H. D. Dudgeon: Sketch of Foston Church. Sketch of Dunkelk. Drawings of Kelso Abbey.

By T. Clarke, Esq., F.S.A.: Ancient carving of the Crucifixion, dug from under the altar of S. Peter's, Isle of Thanet. Arm plate of Sir Thomas (afterwards Lord) Audley.

By W. Footman, Esq.: Oriental dagger, with silver sheath.

By W. Elton, Esq.: Russian helmet, plate, bullet, and part of the wall of Sebastopol.

By Mr. J. C. Styles: Pieces of China from the old hall of Lubbenham, where Charles I. slept prior to the battle of Naseby, supposed to have been used by that monarch.

By W. Johnson, Esq.: Gold ring found at Cropwell Butler, with an inscription in Norman French.

By H. Rodgers, Esq.: Ring found at Gilmorton, having an inscription, "the King's gift" (Charles I. to some royalist).

By J. S. Shackleford, Esq.: Silver seal. Arms of the Shuckburgh family. Sword used at Edge-hill by Sir Richard Shuckburgh. Sword ploughed up at Naseby.

By the Rev. P. Wilson: Metal struck to commemorate the death of Sir Thomas Overbury.

By W. G. Ashby, Esq.: Horns used in calling in the cattle of Naseby. Horse shoe and twelve bullets found at Naseby.

By G. C. Neale, Esq.: Carving in ivory, triumph of Neptune. Cannon ball from Naseby.

By G. A. Ashby, Esq.: Encaustic tiles from Naseby Church.

By Mr. Hunt: Sword and crossbow from Bosworth Field. Sword from Naseby. Ancient church key.

By — Arnold, Esq.: Roman sword, dug up in Watling Street Road.

By Mr. Walter Ivens: Ancient images and lamp. Jewish inkstand and penholder.

By the Hon. C. L. Butler: Coins from Caves' Inn.

By Mr. Kilpack: Nichols' Leicestershire, Guthlaxton Hundred. Cannon ball from Naseby.

By Mr. Tomlinson: Bible, 1626.

By the Churchwardens of Lutterworth: Fox's Book of Martyrs,

1631. Altar cloth and candlesticks stated to be of Wycliffe's time from Lutterworth Church.

By Mrs. Evans: Silver coffee pot and sugar bason. Apex stone from Lutterworth spire, which fell in 1703.

By Mr. Johnson: Various models.

By Mr. S. Hales: Two ornaments from the Emperor of China's summer palace.

By Mr. Superintendent Deakins: Two monumental brasses formerly in Lutterworth Church.*

By George Holyoake, Esq: Cannon ball found in Lutterworth Field.

By Rev. E. Elmhirst: Mediæval fetterlock.

By Mrs. Bonsor: Lady's dress.

By Mr. C. J. Lea: Cornice for nave roof of Middlehurst Church. Boss and moulding, forming panelled roof from Astbury (*temp.* Henry VIII.). Decorative drawings for S. Alban's Church, Rochdale.

By Mrs. Gamble: Needlework, 1655.

By Miss Newcombe: Needlework.

By Captain Ashby: Seal ploughed up at Broadmore, near Naseby. A twenty shilling piece found at Naseby.

A series of the publications of the Arundel Society; the Rev. T. James. Mr. Hollier (Hinckley), also exhibited various articles.

In the afternoon, the Rev. E. W. Woodcock, of Thurmaston, read a short Paper descriptive of the numerous rubbings of monumental brasses adorning the Town Hall, to a large and attentive audience. The following is an epitome of his address:—

THE BRASSES OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

I have the pleasure this afternoon to address you on the subject of Monumental Brasses—what I have to say will, I must premise, chiefly refer to those of the fourteenth century. The subject without that limitation would, even if an outline only were attempted, be too considerable for the time to which I am restricted. Brasses, I venture to hope, will for all future time remain a matter of interest in this country: they are records of English men and English women, who have long passed away, of whose habits and feelings we know but very little. This is especially true of the brasses of this period, for in the fourteenth century oil painting had hardly become understood, and printing was unknown. The sovereigns on the throne of England during the time of which I

* It should be recorded that the two monumental brasses mentioned above as being formerly in Lutterworth Church, were stolen from thence on the night of Sunday, 28th August, 1854. The thief was afterwards captured and convicted. The brasses had been broken to pieces, but thanks to Mr. Superintendent Deakins and his police, every piece has been recovered—some being found at Atherstone, some at Nuneaton, Bedworth, Hinckley, and on the road near High Cross; the result being that both the brasses as perfect as when they were stolen (except the fractures) were exhibited in the Museum. It is due to Mr. Deakins that all interested in such matters should know the care and pains he took in the matter. T. N.

have been speaking were Edward I., Edward II., Edward III., and Richard II. During their reigns the advance of the people in all the arts of life was very great indeed. The great social union between the Norman and the Saxon races, fusing them into one people, had taken place, and now an England quite different from the England of a former age was to appear on the world's theatre, and in deeds of arms, and in the more glorious arts of peace, to excite the emulation of future ages. The national character in feelings and manners was now formed. Law became a science, and has left in its statutes so permanent and durable an impression, that the first king of the century is well compared to the Emperor Justinian. Again at this period, John Wycliffe, Rector of Lutterworth, translated the Bible into English, and it is remarkable how easy to be understood is his language after the lapse of time, his undying work may be entirely comprehended by any educated person; it, at the Reformation, formed the basis of the different translations of the Bible current, and therefore of the authorized version now in use. Thus the statutes and the language of the fourteenth century still influence us, and prove a permanent bond of union between us and our forefathers five hundred years ago. Nor should the deeds of arms of this time be passed over; the spirit of Crecy and of Poictiers has never ceased to animate Englishmen. The feudal system, which in the fourteenth century, to a considerable extent prevailed, has indeed long passed away, yet not the chivalrous feeling which led to victory, and enabled Englishmen to triumph over very great odds. The deeds of arms under Lord Clyde, in India, prove the race to be undeteriorated, and that if occasion again occur, the descendants of the conquerors of Crecy would show themselves the same breed of men.

Consider, then, that you see on the walls of this Hall figures of those who lived in our land, to whom it was very dear—if my description is imperfect, "eke out our performance with your mind"—remember that these brasses are representations executed, generally, long before the death of the person, and were subjected to contemporary criticism so as to ensure correctness.

For facility of description I will divide the brasses into those of knights, of ladies, of merchants, and of ecclesiastics. Begin with knights firstly, because they are the earliest specimens of brasses now remaining; the very first is, indeed, only some twenty years before A D. 1300. I call you to mark it well—the figure of Sir John D'Aubernon, from Stoke D'Aubernon Church: then next it that of Sir Roger de Trumpington, A.D. 1289, from Trumpington Church, Cambridgeshire, and on the opposite side of the room Sir Robert de Septvans, from Chatham, Kent—these two last are cross-legged. They were both connected with the crusade.

Mr. Woodcock proceeded to describe the other illustrations of knights suspended on the walls, showing the change in the style

and fashion of their armour during the century, fully describing its various parts, uses, and ornamentation. I now come (he continued) to the brasses of ladies:—

Unfortunately there are very few existing to show the female costume in the first half of the century. You see before you Lady Alyne de Creke, A.D. 1325, Westley Waterless, Cambridgeshire, wife of Sir John de Creke. The dress of the period may be stated thus:—The hair was parted on the forehead, and confined at each side of the face, usually in plaits; a wimple covered the neck, and was drawn up over the chin, and generally fastened across the forehead, which was encircled with a fillet, ornamented with jewels. Over the head a veil was thrown, which fell over the shoulders. The under dress was a kirtle, over this a gown, above all, sometimes, as in this instance, a mantle fastened in front of the shoulders, by means of a cord. The two wives of Robert Braunch, from S. Margaret's Church, King's Lynn, Norfolk, exhibit the female costume at a later period in the century, and enable you to judge of the magnificence of the dress of the time. These ladies wear wimples and veil, as before described; long flowing robes, lined with fur, gathered up under one arm, with tight sleeves, reaching to the elbows, and hanging down from thence in lappets; an underdress, beautifully embroidered with scroll work and birds, is visible at their feet, and its tight sleeves appear beneath those of the upper robe. Maud de Cobham, from Cobham Church, Kent, A.D. 1330, is a specimen still later in the century, and exhibits the singular coiffine, the reticulated headdress, which is a marked characteristic of this time. The other portions of the dress of ladies underwent less change. The kirtle had close sleeves reaching usually to the knuckles, and buttoned underneath as far as the elbow, and sometimes to the shoulder.

As for the brasses of merchants, we have only one to exhibit; but it is on the whole the most magnificent specimen of the brasses which still remain in England. I refer to the large one of Robert Braunch, and his two wives, A.D. 1364, this you observe placed on the wall on my left hand. It measures nine feet by five feet.

In the tabernacle, over each figure, are five niches; in the centre one, the Deity is represented with the soul of the deceased on the lap; and in the others four angels—each shaft of the canopy contains four male and female figures, in varied costume. At the lower part of the brass is a representation of the "Peacock feast." At the table sit nine men and three women. The first figure is made prominent by a more ornamented cap, and by having in front of him a man kneeling on one knee, and placing before him a peacock in a dish. On the table are viands of different sorts, drinking vessels, etc., etc. Standing at the ends of the table are musicians playing on the violin, the guitar, and others blowing trumpets. I would remind you that Lynn, in early times, was a

much more important place than at present; being, in the fourteenth century, a principal emporium for wool, then the great staple of the kingdom. Mr. Boutell, in his "Monumental Brasses of England," maintains the principal figure in the Peacock feast to be King Edward himself. If so, Robert Braunch commemorated an important event in his life—the entertaining the King in his mayoralty, which was in 1349 or 1359.

The dress of this great civilian, is a close fitting tunic, reaching below the knees, with pockets in front; with tight sleeves reaching to the elbows, and there hanging down in long lappets; the legs are clothed in tight hose; and the feet in shoes laced at the sides.

The reverend gentleman then referred to brasses representing ecclesiastics, many beautiful rubbings of which adorned the walls of the hall, showing Bishops, Abbots, and Priests in the varied vestments of their orders. He described these in a clear, brief, and scholarly manner, and finished his interesting and instructive address by claiming for this part of archæological science the attention of all present, showing the ease with which it may be followed, and the great help it is in the elucidation of the, at least, personal appearance of the people of the past.

At the close of Mr. Woodcock's paper Mr. Bloxam described many of the Anglo-Saxon and Roman antiquities from the Watling Street, brought by himself, Mr. Marriott, and other gentlemen for exhibition; he also called attention to a probably unique copy in two volumes, of the first edition of that favourite boy's book, Robinson Crusoe, printed in 1719. In the British Museum may be seen one volume of this edition, preserved under a glass case. The Rev. Canon James followed by calling attention in a brief and elementary manner to the many architectural and archæological objects of interest in the room, pointing out especially the interesting relics and works of art forwarded for exhibition from Newnham Paddox, by the Earl of Denbigh, and the very beautiful specimens of ecclesiastical decorations drawn and coloured by Mr. J. C. Lea, of Lutterworth, which from the happy combination of colour and form called forth many expressions of hearty admiration.

At half-past five the members and friends of the society dined in the large room of the Denbigh Arms Hotel, the Rev. J. P. Marriott, the President of the meeting, in the chair. The Rev. J. O. Stuart occupied the vice-chair. After grace was said, and the Queen's health drunk, the company returned to the Town Hall to take part in

THE EVENING MEETING.

This was advertised to be open at half-past seven o'clock; at that hour the room was crowded by a very numerous assembly, comprising a goodly number of ladies. Very many were disappointed in consequence of being unable to obtain admittance.

The President (the Rev. J. P. Marriott, of Cottesbach), in opening the meeting spoke of the great pleasure it gave him as a looker on, as a resident in the neighbourhood, and as a member of the Society, to preside over its meeting that evening. After making some remarks upon the objects and working of the Society, he remarked, that speaking of its architectural department, he observed from the drawings exhibited that the attention of its members was directed almost exclusively to ecclesiastical architecture, he ventured to hope that domestic architecture would receive more of their attention, more especially cottage architecture: he had himself erected cottages on his own property, the plans for which he would liked to have submitted to the Society, and to have profited by the suggestions and advice he would then have gained. He also alluded to the large and interesting collection of drawings, articles of antiquity, and general interest brought together, and which the present meeting had been the means of bringing out, and to the papers then about to be read. The Chairman then called upon Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., to read his Paper on

LUTTERWORTH CHURCH AND THE WYCLIFFE RELICS,

which he proceeded to do as follows:

In that trite and well known passage of the Roman philosopher, the *Movemur nescio quo pacto*, &c., where he treats of the indescribable emotions of the mind in those localities, endeared to us by the remembrance of celebrated men, we feel the force of his remarks. We muse in silent contemplation of those of other days, on whom our admiration is fixed. We gaze, not without emotion, on any relic of the past connected with them. The spots where they dwelt, where they laboured, their last resting places, we regard with more than the natural eye. We make pilgrimages to many places simply from the associations attached to them, and in these days of rapid locomotion, we pass hurriedly by, yet within sight of others we cannot stop to examine.

I cannot readily forget the first time I passed by Corbie, a small town near the railway on the road from Amiens to Douai, how I looked out, first on one side, then on the other, for a glimpse of the towers of the church—how at last between the trees and across the glade I caught a momentary glance of the object I was looking for, and then all disappeared from sight.

A few years afterwards I made my pilgrimage thither. No stately buildings drew my attention; for of the once great and celebrated Benedictine Abbey, founded at this place, a small portion only of the Church remains. The Conventual buildings, with

scarcely an exception, had been destroyed: some portion immediately antecedent to my visit. It was then the associations of the place which carried me there. The remembrance of two of old time, Paschasius Radbertus, who raised or originated the great religious controversy of the ninth century, and whose opinions were opposed by Bertramus, perhaps better known to us as Bertram the Priest, both monks at the same time of this once famous and royal Abbey of Corbie.

Would the ruins or site of the ancient Abbey of Cisteaux in France, connected in our minds with S. Bernard, the great reformer of monastic discipline in the twelfth century, and the great religious writer of his age, be by us passed by unheeded and unnoticed?

Does not Salisbury call to our remembrance Jewell, the author of "The Apology" and of "The Defence of the Apology of the Church of England;" Louvain in Belgium of his great opponent Harding, and at a later period, of Jansenius; Bishopsbourne in Kent, of Hooker, whose "animated bust," his "vera effigies," graces the wall of that hallowed church, in which the remains of him, not to be forgotten, are buried? *In memoria eterna erit justus.*

But to go no further than your own county. Do we not connect Thurcaston with Latimer; Ibstock with Laud; Drayton with George Fox; and last, not least, Lutterworth with Wycliffe?

We indeed find in this town no ancient remains of domestic architecture of the fourteenth century, not even of the hospital founded in the reign of King John, to carry us back to the time of Wycliffe, who, born as is said in 1324, was incumbent of this parish during the last ten years of his life, from 1374 to 1384, during the latter part of the reign of Edward III., and early part of that of Richard II. Wycliffe died at this place and was here buried.

The Church of Lutterworth is, then, the only structure now remaining coeval with his time. Whatever may have been the structure of the original church at Lutterworth—one, I think, of not very high antiquity; but architectural fragments of which, in all probability, lie concealed in the foundations of the present walls—it is enough for us to know, from an examination of its present architectural features, that the shell of the present structure, at least of the tower, nave, and aisles, were built in the fourteenth century, during the life, but before the incumbency of Wycliffe, and probably some time between the years 1330 and 1360. The tower, with a belfry staircase projecting at the north-west angle, which has been on the exterior much disfigured by compo, had formerly a lofty spire, destroyed by tempest in 1703. The upper stage of the tower was rebuilt in the tasteless pseudo-Gothic style of the early part of the eighteenth century. The nave

is divided from the aisles on each side by a range of four double-faced pointed arches, with chamfered edges and hood-mouldings over, which latter give great relief. These arches spring from plain octagonal piers, with moulded caps. The south wall of the south aisle contains five windows, three of them of two lights, each with flowery tracery in the head; the other two of two lights each with rich flowery tracery in the head of one, whilst the mullions of the other simply cross in the head. All these windows have hood-mouldings over, without which they would look bare of relief. The south porch is modern. At the south-east corner of this aisle is a diagonal buttress containing a niche for an image. The east window of this aisle is a somewhat rich specimen of a decorated window containing four principal lights, and flowing foiled tracery in the head. The east window of this aisle is of the same period.

The north aisle contains in the north wall three windows of two lights each, with tracery in the head and hood-mouldings, over a plain pointed doorway with a hood-moulding over, of the fourteenth century, a west window of the same period, and a well-designed east window of three lights, with flowing tracery in the head. These are all the architectural features I can confidently pronounce to be anterior to the age of Wycliffe, and in existence during his incumbency. For the age of the chancel is somewhat doubtful, whether it be of, or subsequent to, Wycliffe's time. The little circular trefoiled headed doorway in the south aisle was, I think, in existence during his incumbency. Of the windows I am not sure; from the disposition and angular character of the tracery, differing from the flowing lines of an earlier period, I should assign these features to the early part of the fifteenth century, which would be subsequent to the age of Wycliffe.

The east window has been very injudiciously blocked up. But the five principal vertical lights were subdivided by panel work. This window has a hood moulding over, and above this is a stone escutcheon, or shield bearing the arms of Ferrers, Gules, seven mascles voided, or. On either side of the chancel door is a window with three principal lights with angular tracery in the head. In the north wall of the chancel are windows similar to those in the south wall, and in the north wall of the north aisle, near the east end, over a sepulchral recess, the masonry of which projects externally, is a window with tracery similar to that of the windows in the chancel; by which I should imagine that the chancel was built by the person whose recumbent effigy, with that of his lady, lies within this sepulchral recess, on a high tomb in the north aisle.

And now, as to the interior of the church. The original high pitched roof of the nave appears to have been removed in the fifteenth century, the walls on which it rested carried up, and the clerestory windows, five on each side, obtusely arched, of three

lights each, and cinquefoiled in the heads, added. The present roof of the nave, of a more obtuse or depressed pitch than the original roof, is a good specimen of the wooden roof of the fifteenth century, and now constitutes one of the most interesting architectural features in the church.

It is divided into five bays by tie-beams, supported by upright wall pieces, from which spring curved braces, the spandrills between which and the tie-beams are filled with open panel work, whilst a kind of embattled crest runs along the upper edge of the tie-beam. Between the tie-beams each bay is subdivided by moulded purlins and common rafters also moulded.

The chancel arch is of the fifteenth century, and the piers or responds from which the arch springs, as also the soffit of the arch, are panelled—an unusual architectural feature in this part of the country, though common enough in Somersetshire, and some other of the south-western counties.

The chancel roof is plain and depressed, and was probably constructed in the latter part of the fifteenth or early in the sixteenth century. It is divided into three bays with moulded wall-plates, purlins, and rafters.

Of the present internal fittings of the church and their arrangement, it is impossible to speak in any—the slightest—terms of commendation.

The simple yet graceful and ornate architectural features, which the fittings of Wycliffe's and of the succeeding age presented, appear about a century ago to have been ruthlessly swept away, and the present tasteless and miserable arrangement of boxes or pews made, as Fuller quaintly says, "high and easy for folk to sit or sleep in," and "worthy of reformation," was adopted. For "the church was beautified in 1761 with a costly pavement of chequered stone, new pews of oak, and everything else new, both in church and chancel, except the pulpit."

The pulpit was removed from its ancient and appropriate position in the north aisle about a quarter of a century ago, and set up in the centre of the nave, with clerk's desk and reading pew massed together like a huge graduated excrescence. At the same time, I suppose, the galleries were constructed. With these alterations the church has been knocked about, and is now in a state of semi-dilapidation, whilst the west end of the church has been parted off for vestries and receptacles for rubbish, the walls of the chancel panelled round, in 1761, where they should not have been, hiding most probably features of architectural interest, perhaps the very stone seat or *sedile* occupied by Wycliffe. What a slur upon his memory!

The proper restoration of this church is simply a work of time, whether it be effected in the present or next generation. Wycliffe in his age as a Church Reformer led the van. Will you, in this

age of church restoration, be content to follow in the wake? The high pews and galleries will come down, and the pulpit be removed from its present unsightly position. We have but to walk across the fields to Misterton, barely a mile distant, to see the effects of such a change. Compare the two churches together: "Look here upon this picture and on this."

I must now draw your attention to the monument or high tomb, in the recess in the north wall of the north aisle near the east end, with the two recumbent effigies thereon. The tomb itself is hid from sight by one of those unseemly high pews I have described. It is, however, engraved in outline in Nichols' Leicestershire, and, as far as I can judge from the representation there given, is a monument of about the middle of the fifteenth century, It certainly is not the monument of William Feilding and Jane Prudhomme his wife, to whom Nichols assigns it, for he flourished in the reign of Edward III., though I find he was alive in the early part of the reign of Richard II., A.D. 1380. Of whom it is the monument is yet matter of conjecture. There are, however, two families, to one of whom this monument is likely to belong, namely, to one of the Feilding family, Sir John Feilding, Knight, son of William Feilding and Jane Prudhomme, and who married Margaret Purefoy. I know not when they died or where they were buried, but as they were the father and mother of Sir William Feilding, Knight, who was slain at the battle of Tewkesbury, in 1470, and was there buried, they probably died about the middle of the fifteenth century, with which date the monument would agree.

Or it might be a monument of one of the Ferrers' family, anciently lords of this manor, and patrons of the Advowson of the church; and if so, I should assign it to Sir William Ferrers of Groby, who in 1414 obtained a grant of a market and fair to Lutterworth, and who died in 1444, and to his lady. To this worthy knight and benefactor to Lutterworth I would ascribe the rebuilding of the chancel early in the fifteenth century, as the arms of Ferrers over the east window of the chancel would imply, probably at or about the same period as the grant of the market and fair was obtained, and as the window over this monument is an insertion made when the chancel was rebuilt, and in the style of the windows of the chancel, such fact is in favour of the assumption that this was the tomb of a Ferrers. Yet it is in what is called the Feilding aisle, and the claims of both families are in my mind conflicting. Perhaps some one, more interested in, and connected with Lutterworth than I am, may work out this interesting problem.

The effigies on this tomb are of alabaster, and represent an esquire or knight, for there is no distinctive mark of cognizance between them, and his lady. He appears bareheaded, with short-cropped hair, and face close shaven, attired in a long gown or coat, belted round the waist and buckled in front. The sleeves of the

gown are wide and loose, and it appears to be worn over armour, of which the vambraces, coverings for the lower arm, and coudes or elbow plates, and broad or square-toed sollerets, with which the feet are covered, are visible. The hands are bare and conjoined on the breast in attitude of prayer, and the feet rest against some animal, now much mutilated. The head reposes on a double cushion supported by angels, the heads of which have been destroyed. There is a peculiarity about this effigy I have not met with in any other; that is, it appears to have over the defensive armour not a surcoat, or a byclas, or a jupon, or a tabard, but the civilian or layman's gown or coat of the period I suppose it to be, namely, of about the middle of the fifteenth century.

The lady is represented cumbent on the left of her husband, clad in a long loose gown, with a mantle over, fastened across the breast by a cordon with pendant tassels, the cordon being affixed on either side to a lozenge shaped fanail. The sleeves of the gown are full, but drawn up and cuffed at the wrists; the veiled head-dress is worn, and the head reposes on a double cushion supported by angels. The period to which this monument may be fairly assigned is some time in the first half of the fifteenth century. The costume of both effigies may be fairly ascribed to that period.

There have been and are some monumental brasses in the church. Most of them have disappeared, but none of them appear to have been of earlier date than the fifteenth century.

Much painted glass formerly existed in this church, especially in shields, containing the armorial bearings of the Feildings, Ferrers and others. At present not a single fragment of these ancient memorials of benefactors to this church is to be found; all have been ruthlessly swept away.

This church contains a variety of articles, which, for years past, I know not how many, have been regarded as relics of Wycliffe. These are—the pulpit in which he is said to have preached, his arm chair, his table, his altar candlesticks, a portion of his gown, and his portrait—a copy of that in the possession of the Earl of Denbigh, painted by a Mr. Feilding, and presented by him to the parish, in 1786. The original of this portrait is, by the kind permission of that noble earl, with other interesting portraits from his valuable collection, and for which we ought and must all feel deeply indebted to him, now in your local museum.

Now this is a critical age, and we naturally inquire whether these relics are genuine? Is a single one of them of Wycliffe's era? I should have been deeply pleased could I have met with a single article which I could ascribe to his age; but with the exception of the shell of the tower, substructure of the nave, and aisles, I can find no single article of furniture or fittings of his time. To take them seriatim, the chair and table are so palpably articles of furniture of the seventeenth century, that the veriest tyro in archæo-

logical lore would never think of assigning them an earlier period. Not so the pulpit; but is this of Wycliffe's age? Certainly not. When the chancel was rebuilt in the early part of the fifteenth century, or when in that century the clerestory was added to the nave, and the present roof placed thereon, the church was seated with open benches, probably like those in Misterton Church, or in Claybrook Church. The chancel screen, rich and costly, was at that time constructed, as was also the pulpit.

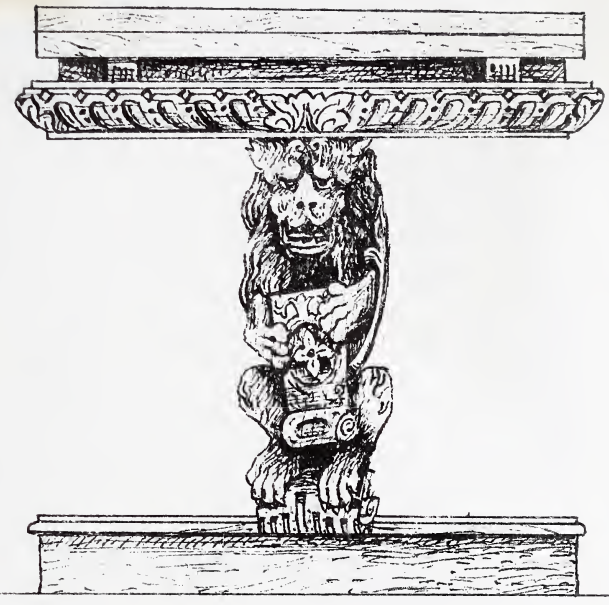
Fragments of the chancel screen, or what I presume to have been such, are worked up at the back of the organ loft, nearly hidden from view. The architectural details of this screen, as well as of the pulpit, are clearly those of the fifteenth century. In fact I do not know a single church in the kingdom which contains an original wooden pulpit of the fourteenth century, as this has been supposed to be, and the few stone pulpits we have of that age, or earlier, exist in the yet remaining or ruined refectories of conventual foundations.

The sounding board to the pulpit, now in the vestry, is an addition of the seventeenth century, about two hundred years old.

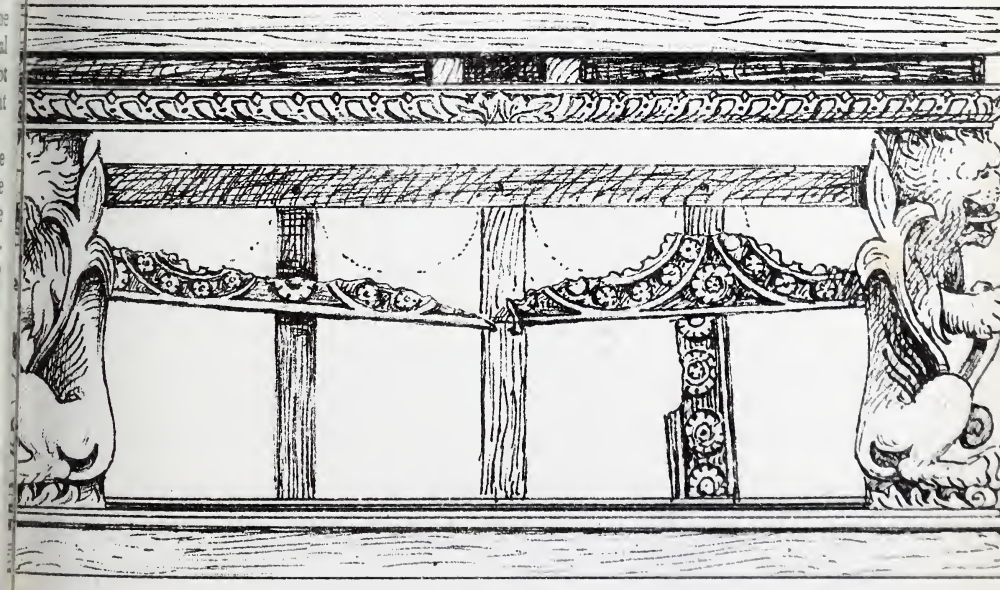
Then as to the very curious fluted altar candlesticks of wood and gilt—both rare and curious they are—but not of the age of Wycliffe, for they are a pair of altar candlesticks of the early part of the seventeenth century, or time of Charles the First. At the Reformation, when lights were generally abolished from our churches, the two on the communion table or high altar, as it was called, were retained for the express signification that Christ is the very true light of the world; and these continued till the Puritan Party in the House of Commons, in 1643, passed an ordinance for the removal of altar candlesticks from our churches. In the general destruction these appear to have escaped, and as historical relics I hope they may long continue to be taken care of. If not unique, they are the only pair of wooden candlesticks of that period I have found remaining.

Then there is a portion of a vestment, kept with such great care and reverence in a glass case, never to be opened, and like the blood of S. Januarius, to be looked at but not examined. For we judge of it under great disadvantages from its partial concealment. Now if this fragment is that of a vestment, there were only two vestments, or service habits of the Church of Rome, to which it could belong, viz., the cope and the chasuble. The latter would be the vestment worn by Wycliffe every time he officiated as priest at the celebration of the Eucharistic Office, the former only in choral services and in processions. Now the cope had sometimes orphreys down the sides in front, in which figures of saints were sometimes worked; but not those of angels; and I never knew an instance of a chasuble worked as this fragment is. My own opinion, and I cannot sufficiently examine the fragment to be positive is, that it is

to a foot



End of Table 1" Scale



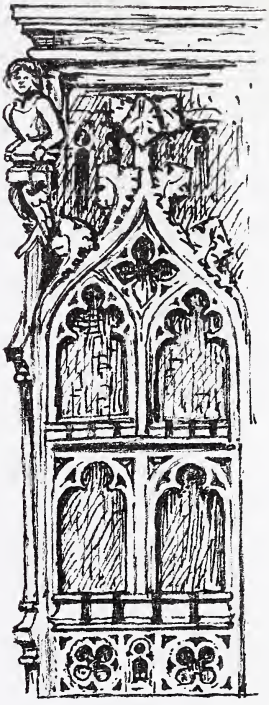
C.J.Lea

Side of Table 1" Scale

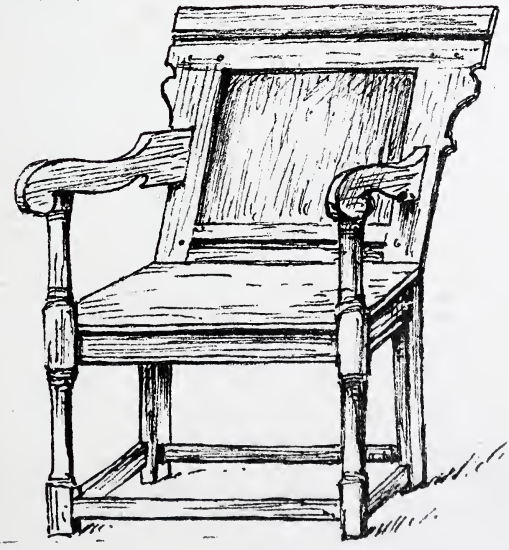
"WYCLIFFE RELICS"

One Candlestick and Table.

Remaining Fragment
of Cope
1" Scale



One panel of Pulpit
(Octagonal on plan)
1" Scale



Chair 3/4" Scale

the portion of an altar frontal of the fifteenth century, some of which are still preserved in our churches, the angel being represented as it would have been in the preceding century, or time of Wycliffe. Having thus expressed my opinion, formed under a very partial examination, I am content to leave this point for the future criticisms of others.

Lastly, as to the portrait. Is that not of Wycliffe, that venerable bearded old man? Alas! I am afraid I must attempt to dissipate all preconceived and cherished notions which have long prevailed respecting it.

Wycliffe, as a priest of the church before the Reformation, was required by the discipline of the church to be close shaven, both as to his chin and his cheeks, and if you examine the brasses and sculptured monumental effigies of the fourteenth century, of priests in this country, which are numerous, you will not find one represented in the manner portrayed by this portrait. Again, the cap, the costume, the gown, the ruff, encircling the wrist, as represented in this portrait, are, together with the long beard, semblances of the costume and appearance of one of the Reformers of the sixteenth century, when the fashion of letting the beard grow among the reformed clergy crept in. This painting is clearly of that period, and the date of it I should fix as somewhere between 1540 and 1570. As to its being a realistic portrait of Wycliffe, or of his age, it certainly is not. It may be an ideal portrait of him in the costume and appearance prevalent in an age at least a century and a half after his death. There is, or was, forty years ago, a portrait somewhat similar to this in the collection of the then Duke of Dorset, at Knole, in Kent, bearing also the name of Wycliffe. Whether it remains there still I know not.

Now I can show you a much more realistic portrait, as to costume and general appearance, than that this painting represents. It exhibits a priest of Wycliffe's time vested for the service of the church, namely, in the alb, stole, maniple, and chasuble. When not so vested his ordinary clerical habit would have been a long cassock, or coat, the *toga talaris* with a hood, the *caputium*, attached to it, and hanging down behind.

Is there then no relic of Wycliffe's time? Yes, there was one disposed of lately in London, and I could have wished it had been secured for the Church of Lutterworth. Why we reverence the memory of Wycliffe is not so much on account of his theological opinions, on many of which grave differences might arise, but from his translation of the Holy Scriptures, or at least portions of them, into the vernacular, the language of Chaucer and of the author of Piers Plowman.

Now in the late sad dispersion, which ought never to have taken place, of the library of Archbishop Tennison, on the first of July last, amongst the MSS. was one of the fourteenth century, con-

taining portions of certain books of the Old Testament translated by John Wycliffe, whether in his monograph, which I think not unlikely, or simply a transcript made in his time, I cannot say. It was a small folio volume, and, though fragmental, was purchased in public competition by a well-known London bookseller, Mr. Lilly, for £150.

I have now trespassed upon your patience more than I ought to have done, and my remarks may not have been so palatable as I could have wished: but it is the province of the antiquary "to search out truth," whether "in academic groves," or amid objects of long cherished interest presented to his notice.

At the conclusion of Mr. Bloxam's paper, the chairman invited discussion upon its contents There was an apparent reluctance on the part of some of the audience to give up their long-cherished faith in the "Relics" of Wycliffe, yet no champion appeared to take up the glove thrown down by the learned lecturer; one gentleman, however, created much amusement, by enquiring whether, after demolishing all they had for so long connected with Wycliffe, Mr. Bloxam would kindly inform him whether in his opinion the Reformer had ever existed, or had been in Lutterworth?

Mr. Bloxam replied he believed Wycliffe's name would be found on the episcopal register of the period as priest of Lutterworth.

The President then requested the Rev. Canon James to read his paper upon

THE BATTLE OF NASEBY.

A large plan of the ground, and of the position of the troops on both sides, was suspended behind the reverend gentleman to illustrate his paper. He proceeded at length to describe the progress of the battle in a lucid, popular, and interesting address, intermingling what he read with extemporaneous explanations, and was listened to with great and unbroken interest to the conclusion. All the spots identified with the incidents of the battle were mentioned, the associations connected with them detailed, and the lesson to be derived from a contemplation of the causes and the effects of the great struggle then carried on, were pointed out with much force and perspicuity.

The Rev. H. K. Richardson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Bloxam and Canon James for the reading of their papers. The depth of thought and amount of learning required in the production of these papers, he said, was not to be conceived, except by any person who had been engaged in similar labour. He felt reluctance to admit that the relics said to be those of Wycliffe were not genuine, but to use an ancient axiom—the truth must prevail. Mr. Richardson, after further observations, concluded by proposing the resolution.

Mr. James Thompson said with regard to the portraits with the beard, it was evident that there was only a "hair's breadth" of difference between Mr. Bloxam and himself, but he feared that was fatal to the genuineness of the portraits. He had been alike interested and mortified; for he had felt himself deprived of all his cherished beliefs in the Wycliffe relics, one by one, and came to the conclusion that he had not a leg to stand upon. But he felt that there was a higher pleasure in obtaining the truth; and archæology was here of essential service in correcting mistakes and in even setting the historian right. After adverting to the variety, value, and interest of the articles laid on the tables, and the rubbings and drawings fixed on the walls, Mr. Thompson said he most cordially seconded the vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had favoured them with two very interesting and instructive papers.

The Rev. J. H. Hill then proposed, and the Rev. J. M. Lakin seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman; which that gentleman acknowledged.

Mr. North (Secretary), said it was always desirable upon occasions like that to avoid the scattering about of too many compliments, but they must not disperse without allowing him in the name of the Society to thank the chairman and the good people of Lutterworth and its neighbourhood for their very hearty welcome, and the hospitable reception they had given to the Society, upon that its first visit to their town. The museum collected within those walls was one of great interest and value, and reflected the highest credit upon all concerned in its formation; its inspection had afforded the greatest pleasure to the numerous visitors. It had been the Society's good fortune to add several names to their list of members that day, and he trusted that upon their second visit to Lutterworth, which he hoped was not very distant, they would be again welcomed by the very many who had shown themselves to be their friends, but who would ere then have become members of the Society.

The meeting broke up about ten o'clock.

THE EXCURSION.

At ten o'clock the following morning two coaches, with four horses in each, and several other vehicles were at the door of the Denbigh Arms Hotel, to convey the members and their friends to the various places named in the published time and excursion table of the Society. The quiet town of Lutterworth was all alert, and the sight of these reminders of the days when railways were unknown, and the coachman and guard were in all their glory of scarlet coat

and ringing horn, coupled with a glorious sun overhead, and a breeze fresh and invigorating, prepared all for the enjoyment of a day, the successful carrying out of the programme of which depended entirely upon that most fickle of all mistresses, the weather. That, however, was most propitious, and as the large party, numbering between sixty and seventy ladies and gentlemen, crossed the river Swift, on their way to Cave's Inn—the Roman Tripontium—many were the congratulations upon that most important, and always much talked of, subject.

Upon the arrival of the party at

CAVE'S INN,

Mr. Bloxam remarked that he differed from many most able authorities in his opinion as to the ancient Roman station, Tripontium; he believed, for reasons which he was not then prepared to enter into, even did time permit, that Cave's Inn was the site of that station, and not, as was generally thought, Lilbourne. He might shortly through the public press, give the reasons which he thought strong enough in warranting him in coming to that conclusion.

LILBOURNE

was the next halting place named in the time table; after a hasty inspection of the church, Mr. Bloxam led the way to the high mounds of earth close by, which he stated had generally been supposed to be in some way connected with the Roman station, Tripontium; indeed, Stukely, Burton, and others had stated Lilbourne to be the locality of that station, but Mr. Bloxam, as just stated, hopes to show that Cave's Inn is the real site. The mounds close by the church, he stated to be marks not of British or Roman occupation, but the proofs of the existence of a mediæval castle. The word Tripontium he stated to be a compound word, partly British and partly Latin, signifying the Town by the Bridge.

A drive of three miles brought the excursionists to

STANFORD CHURCH,

where they were welcomed by the venerable rector, who had hospitably provided wine, &c., for those who would avail themselves of his invitation. All were much pleased too, to meet the Rev. G. A. Poole, of Welford, who gave much valuable information respecting the church, and the very beautiful and interesting stained glass therein preserved. The following is an abstract of his remarks:—

The history of the Church of S. Nicholas, Stanford, is extremely simple; for the whole is of one style, and so nearly of the same

character, that it would be difficult, merely from architectural characteristics, to say which are the earliest portions. Moreover, at the time to which the church must be referred (that is the first half, or to speak more exactly, the second quarter of the fourteenth century), this lordship, as well as the advowson of Stanford, was in the possession of the Abbey of Selby: so that we are not led to look for indications that any particular portions of the church are to be assigned to any person out of the abbey. There is, however, a tomb with a recumbent figure, under a recessed arch in the south aisle, which probably indicates the resting place of the founder of a chantry in that aisle. There is nothing elsewhere to lead to a doubt that the abbey was at the whole charges of the erection of the church. But, however this may be, it is certainly one of the most pleasing examples of the decorated style, without being remarkably rich, that we have in the neighbourhood. The interior is especially good in effect, chiefly perhaps from the slenderness of the piers, which are without capitals, the chamfers of the arches being continuous from the point of the arches to the ground: a character particularly adopted in the succeeding or perpendicular style. The font is coeval with the church. The miserable reredos shutting out half of the east window, and the fittings in the chancel generally, ought to be destroyed. The rood-screen, and a little piece of screen-work across the tower arch, were brought, not many years ago, from Lutterworth. The pulpit cloth is of crimson velvet, richly embroidered with white silk, and has a curious history. It was worked by Lady Rowe, and presented to this church in thankful commemoration of the escape of herself and her husband, Sir Thomas Rowe, from a storm at sea, on their return from Turkey, from whence they precipitately fled to avoid the Sultan's advances to Lady Rowe. The monuments consist of a very perfect series commemorative of the Caves, from Sir Thomas, who purchased the lordship and advowson off Henry VIII. at the suppression of abbeys, to the late Otway Cave, Esq., M.P., son of Lady Braye, the present owner. But by far the most interesting object in the church is the painted glass, the greater part of it coeval with the fabric, but presenting specimens in Perpendicular also, and Cinquecento with a number of armorial devices, down to a comparatively recent date. Of the decorated or original glass the most ancient is that in the head of the east window, which is assigned to the reign of Edward II., or the beginning of the next reign, by the several shields of arms. There are, 1. England, with a label, probably for Edward III. when Prince of Wales. 2. France, and 3. England; France and England being both borne by the King of England. 4. England, with a label for Thomas of Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, half-brother of Edward II. Beneath this are 5. the arms of Wake, for Thomas, Lord Wake. 6. Warren, probably for Plantagenet, Earl of Surrey. 7. Bohun, Earl of Hereford.

Next in order of date are the figures in the north and south chancel windows. The decorated glass in the heads of the aisle windows follow, being all from 1340 to 1360. The upper parts of the east window of each aisle are especially beautiful, but the two lower figures in each window are not of the same date, being probably from the east window of the chancel, the lower part of which is now destroyed.

The Perpendicular glass, which is of the early part of the fifteenth century, is scattered throughout the windows of the nave aisles. It is not of singular merit. In the east chancel window is a large quantity of Cinque-cento glass, appropriated by the arms of the Caves, who have held the property since the time of Henry VIII. To the Cave family belong all, or almost all, the coats which appear in great profusion in the aisle windows.

This glass has been minutely described by Mr. Winston in that number of the churches of Northamponshire, published by the Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, to which the student of the history of glass painting may be referred for a fuller account. A copy of this description kept in the church would be a great boon to the wandering ecclesiologist.

Upon arriving at

SIBBERTOFT,

the company quickly assembled in the school-room—courteously placed at the disposal of the Committee by the Rev. the vicar, and the Rev. Dolben Paul, to partake of a good substantial cold luncheon there prepared for them. The room was tastefully decorated with flags, &c., and the whole arrangements, after a ride in the open air for four hours, appeared to give general satisfaction.

After grace was said, and the company had received a kind invitation from Canon James, to refresh themselves with tea at the vicarage upon their arrival at Theddingworth, they walked to

NASEBY FIELD,

headed by that gentleman. They halted upon the high ground above Broadmore—where the fiercest conflict took place—having the ground occupied by the Parliamentarians before them, and Naseby Church upon the boundary line. The Rev. Canon James having mounted one of the carriages, proceeded to give a summary of the address he had delivered the previous evening, the interest attaching to which was considerably enhanced by the fact of its being delivered upon the very spot where the exciting incidents related took place. Soon all were again seated, and passed on through a beautifully wooded undulating country, to

THEDDINGWORTH,

where they inspected the perfect gem of a restored church, under the guidance of its esteemed vicar, Mr. James. As this church is better known than the others we have referred to, we need only to be reminded of the almost sacredness of its restoration, not a stone, not a bit of timber, not a time mark, not a trace of the ancient usages of the church have been removed, or obliterated, where by any possibility they could be retained. And whilst all the ancient portions have—where possible—been preserved, everything modern is of the very best kind, both as to material and workmanship. The floor tiling, designed by Lord Alwyne Compton, is most beautifully simple and chaste in design and colour, the carving of the seat ends, and screens to the side chapel or chantries will all bear the minutest inspection, and will satisfy the most fastidious critic. The pulpit and low screen dividing the nave from the chancel are of carved Leicestershire alabaster, and the minor fittings of the church are well worthy of imitation. The architectural features of the fabric are very interesting, this small church containing within itself specimens of almost every style of architecture, from the Norman down to the Elizabethan.

This was a fitting close to the proceedings, having visited the sites where Imperial Rome raised the standard of supremacy, the churches where Papal Rome (in days by-gone) rivetted the attention, and held spell-bound the consciences of the neighbouring rustics, the church where the first reformer, in all probability, first read from his own translation the Word of God in a tongue understood by the people, it was fitting that the duty of to-day with respect to the Houses of God should be pressed upon the conscience, and brought before the eye, not by speech or lecture, but by example: and surely that could not be better done than by seeing that one to whose courtesy and scholarly attainments all were so much indebted during the two days' proceedings at Lutterworth, carried out in his own person, and in his own church, the principles and views he had for so many years enunciated with respect to the restoration of churches, and their internal arrangements for a decent, and orderly, performance of divine service.

Having availed themselves of Mr. James's hospitality, the party returned, some to Lutterworth, some to Leicester by way of Market Harborough.

The Society may be congratulated upon the success of this meeting. It was not only appreciated by the members and more educated, but it afforded much gratification to the poorer and working classes; this was evidenced by the fact of there being more than six hundred visitors to the museum on the second day—it being found impossible to admit all applicants on the first day.

25th November, 1861.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The minutes of the last Meeting having been read, the Sub-Committee appointed to carry out the arrangements for the General Meeting lately held at Lutterworth, reported the entire success of that Meeting, and that twelve new members were there elected.

Resolutions relating to the proposed publication of the past Transactions of the Society, and of the Heyricke Papers were passed, and the final arrangements referred to the Publishing Committee.

The following new members were elected, the Rev. J. M. Lakin, Gilmorton; the Rev. J. S. Lievre, Little Ashby; the Right Hon. the Earl of Denbigh, &c., &c.

A note was read from Lord Denbigh, requesting the Secretary to convey to the Committee the satisfaction which his lordship had derived from the resolutions passed at their Meeting (respecting the Lutterworth exhibition), and the pleasure which it afforded him to enrol his name among the members of the Society.

Mr. Frederick Jackson, architect, of Nottingham, presented to the Society, through Mr. North, a proof copy of his plan of Nottingham and environs, beautifully engraved in copper from his own survey during a period of ten years. The evident accuracy and beauty of this plan excited much praise, and the Society expressed their obligations to the donor for the gift of a copy of a document, which must be of great local use and value.

Mr. Hunt, Thurnby, exhibited what appeared to be an ornamented steel binder, found in a wall at Scraptoft.

Mr. G. C. Neale showed a Portuguese or Spanish carving in ivory, being a portion of a triptich, representing the following subjects.—1. Our Saviour treading on a skull and serpent. 2. S. John Baptist, bearing a book and lamb. 3. S. John the Evangelist bearing a chalice, from which is issuing a serpent, in allusion to the tradition related by S. Isidore that an attempt being made to poison S. John in the cup of the sacrament, he drank of the same, and administered it to the communicants without injury, the poison having by a miracle issued from the cup in the form of a serpent. 4. S. Jerome as a penitent before a crucifix, beating himself with a stone. This subject forms one of Titian's most magnificent pictures.

Mr. James Thompson called the attention of the meeting to two Roman coins (one of Victorinus and the other apparently of Claudius Gothicus), which though of little value in themselves, were interesting on account of the locality in which they were found, which was near to the village of Humberstone, in this county. There are close to that village clear indications of the existence of a

Roman encampment, and Roman coins have upon former occasions been found there, which strengthens the idea that the early conquerors of this country had certainly a settlement, if not an encampment, in that neighbourhood. Mr. Thompson further exhibited a Book of Common Prayer, dated 1662, illustrated by a number of curious engravings. Guy Fawkes is represented with his lantern in the cellar, through the walls of which a ray from the All-seeing Eye darts upon him. In the corner of the engraving is represented his execution, he being under the hands of the executioner, who is carrying out the barbarous custom known as "quartering." The execution of Charles I., and many other historical and scriptural subjects, are quaintly and graphically depicted. This edition is a copy of that unanimously subscribed by both Houses of Convocation on the 20th December, 1661. Immediately after the Restoration, Charles II. issued a commission, empowering twelve of the bishops and twelve Presbyterians "to consider of the objections raised against the Liturgy, and to make such reasonable and necessary alterations as they should jointly agree." But Baxter, according to Wheatly, "would not so much as allow that our liturgy was capable of amendment, but confidently pretended to compose one of his own," which Wheatly designates as "an indigested heap of stuff." The conference broke up without coming to any definite arrangement; the subject was then considered by the whole clergy in Convocation, and the Book of Common Prayer, as now used by the Church of England, was the result.

Mr. Thomas Cave sent for exhibition an ancient pair of nut-cracks. They were found under the centre root of an elm tree, five feet in the earth, near Towcester. One handle terminated in a hook—perhaps for picking out the walnut, which, when closed, fitted into an opening in the opposite handle. They were rudely decorated.

Mr. Latham exhibited (through Mr. Thompson) a copy of the funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth. This interesting document is, according to a description endorsed upon it, supposed to have been drawn by the famous Wm. Camden, Clarencieux, King of Arms, and represents the entire procession, giving the costume of all who composed it, with the different banners of the Principalities of the Crown, &c., &c., the whole arranged according to the strict rules of precedence as laid down by the officers of the Heralds' Office. This drawing (being many yards in length) excited much interest.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson produced an ancient hunting knife and fork of three prongs, fitting into each other: handles of silver, inlaid with mother of pearl, representing dogs in pursuit of a hare. It was said to have been found with a cannon ball on Bosworth Field. If so, it probably was a relic of the skirmish which took

place there during the civil wars. It would scarcely be of an earlier date, for although table-forks in solitary instances are mentioned as being in existence as early as the eleventh century, still they were not even in common use in the sixteenth century, and so late as the seventeenth century their use was made a subject of joke by the dramatic writers, and a recent writer informs us that a divine, even at that comparatively recent date, declared that the use of forks was a tacit insult to Providence, who had given us fingers.

The Rev. J. H. Hill laid upon the table a quantity of rude masses of baked clay, which he supposed to be Roman handbricks, and upon which he favoured the meeting with the following remarks:—The handbricks or props which I have brought to-day for your inspection, were found in the parish of Orby, Lincolnshire, during the month of August last. I believe them to have been used in the manufacture of hardware of some sort or other. The extent of country in which they are found is very great. The parishes of Orby, Ingoldmells, and Addlethorpe abound with them, and they are met with at Hogsthorpe and Thorpe. There can be no question that these parishes have been used extensively as potteries by the Romans, and I have no doubt there must be many remains of that people imbedded in the marsh where the bricks are found, oftentimes accompanied with pieces of Roman pottery. The Roman town of Burgh joins the parish of Orby, the Roman city of Vainona was only six miles off, and there are traces of a Roman road passing from Vainona to Burgh, and so along the coast, all which tends to prove that the bricks are undoubtedly Roman. Now the bricks are found at a depth of from four to seven feet; they lie under a marine alluvial deposit, and they cross out on the shore at four different points. Much obscurity hangs about these remains, and nothing but actually digging through the beds of them can throw light upon the subject. The marsh was probably deposited upon the bricks after the Romans had made their embankment, which goes along the sea coast. In digging for the bricks, no tools, nor implements, no arms, no charcoal were found; beds of cockle-shells were frequent, and in some cases snail-shells are among the bricks; some of the bricks are found in a black moor-like substance, which may be the ashes of whatever substance the bricks were burnt with—straw or dried grass—others are in a red powdery brick-dust state. The bricks high up in Orby are small, and of a very tender, friable nature; lower down they are of a blacker colour, larger in size and hard, whilst those near the sea are very red, not so hard as the blackest bricks, and very large, but they are always more or less rounded by the action of the sea; they must have supported heavy pottery, and of considerable size. (Several bricks of a larger size than those upon the table were thrown upon the sea shore at

Skegness after the late severe storms; they are now in the possession of the Rev. E. Elmhirst, of Shawell.) The bricks indicate a progressive manufacture, those far inland being, as I said before, much smaller than those on the coast. I think all the bricks show that they were made with small fingers, probably women and young persons. The bricks lie in thin layers, and stretch in something like lines from Orby down to the sea, and are found in an extent of about five or six miles by one, two, or three miles. In searching for the bricks along a marsh dyke, I could feel them at the bottom of it, traversing the dyke, at a distance of about thirty yards apart. The layer of the bricks appeared to be about eighteen or twenty inches in width. A friend told me in digging (inland) he found a bone of an animal, a flat piece of brick bearing marks of hay or straw on both sides, but not presenting any appearance of being part of a vase. In my diggings I met with nothing but small pieces of Roman pottery at the old surface of the marsh, where the leaves of the water lily, grasses of all descriptions, pieces of the thorn, &c., were almost as perfect as when the first alluvial deposit was laid upon them which happened centuries back. I hope at some early period to make a further investigation of these curious remains of the olden time.

27*th January*, 1862.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby in the chair.

This being the Annual Meeting of the Society, Mr. North, the Honorary Secretary, presented and read the following Report of its proceedings for the year 1861:—

The Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society have much pleasure in tendering for your adoption the Report of the proceedings and position of the Society for the year 1861—the seventh since its formation.

The Volume of the Associated Societies placed in your hands last year will, your Committee venture to hope, so far as the Leicestershire portion is concerned, bear a favourable comparison with the contributions of former years. Mr. John Gough Nichols' paper upon the Heyricke Letters, so valuable in itself, as illustrating Leicester, Leicester customs, and Leicester men in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I., has called from the pen of Mr. James Thompson the interesting memoir of the two Heyricke Portraits, in the Guildhall, Leicester, lately read before you: and has further induced your Committee to apply to Mr. Perry-Herrick—the present representative of the ancient Leicester family of Heyricke—for his permission for the publication, under the editorship of Mr. Nichols, of the whole series of letters written by members of his family during the reigns indicated. To this request Mr. Perry-Herrick at once gave a most courteous and ready consent. The only obstruction to the immediate publication of this valuable series of local letters and papers is the cost of printing a volume which, from its nature, would only command a local sale, and that again among the more strictly literary portion of the community only. It is, however, earnestly to be desired that a publication of documents so extremely interesting, as illustrating local history, local customs, and local progress, and that, too, under the editorship, and elucidated by the notes of so accomplished a scholar

as Mr. John Gough Nichols, the grandson of the historian of this county, should not be lost, or even procrastinated. It is cause of regret that the funds of this Society will not permit you at once to undertake the responsibility of the publication, or even subscribe a large amount towards the cost. The Committee will be glad to receive any suggestions, or meet any proposals members of this Society may communicate to them in reference to the work.

The other Leicestershire Paper placed before you in the last volume is valuable as expressing not only the sentiments of this Society, but—your Committee believe—the feelings of the country generally, upon the appropriation by the Government of Treasure Trove. It is hoped that any further expression of public opinion upon that subject will be unnecessary, as the Government has wisely and judiciously withdrawn the circular enforcing its claim, and has, at any rate for the present, placed it in abeyance, trusting the preservation of such Treasures—metallic leaves from the book of history—to the care of the local antiquary, collector, or museum; a confidence which it behoves all members of Archæological Societies to see is not abused.

It is not the intention of your Committee to lay before you now, as they did in their last Annual Report, anything like a full statement of architectural progress in the town and county during the past year. There are, however, one or two works to which they must very briefly call your attention. The work of restoration at S. Mary's Church, Leicester—brought under your notice last year—has been further aided by the rebuilding—it can scarcely be said restoration, as there was little or nothing of the ancient work left to guide the architect in his designs—of S. Ann's chapel, through the liberality of the Misses Noble. This venerable church is now an epitome of Gothic architecture, claiming and receiving the attention and the admiration of all who view the chasteness and extreme beauty of all its parts.

The excavations at S. Martin's, Leicester, have brought to light many antiquities of great interest. Several considerable portions of the foundations of ancient walls have been discovered: and, upon removing the earth—in July last—on the north side of the church close to the palisading dividing the church ground from the Town-hall Lane, the workmen came to a rubble wall of considerable thickness, surmounted by a wrought stone platform, upon which stood the bases of two massive Doric columns, each about two feet in diameter. These columns, in all probability, formed a portion of a colonnade, which, judging from their size and the space intervening between—about ten feet—would be one of considerable length. The earth in the interior also contained numerous fragments of Roman pottery, and the bones of animals and birds. Two coins—the one of Nero, the other of Constantine—were likewise turned up; the truth of the tradition that a Roman temple stood upon the site of the present church being thus, it is presumed, unequivocably proved.* Upon taking down the tower several fragments of mediæval coffins, corbels, and other pieces of carved stone were met with in the later portions of it, the builders having, apparently—without much respect for the remains of an earlier age—used all the available stone within their reach. Owing to an unfortunate dispute between the contractors and the London workmen, the works at this church have progressed but slowly, now, however, a more rapid progression is visible.

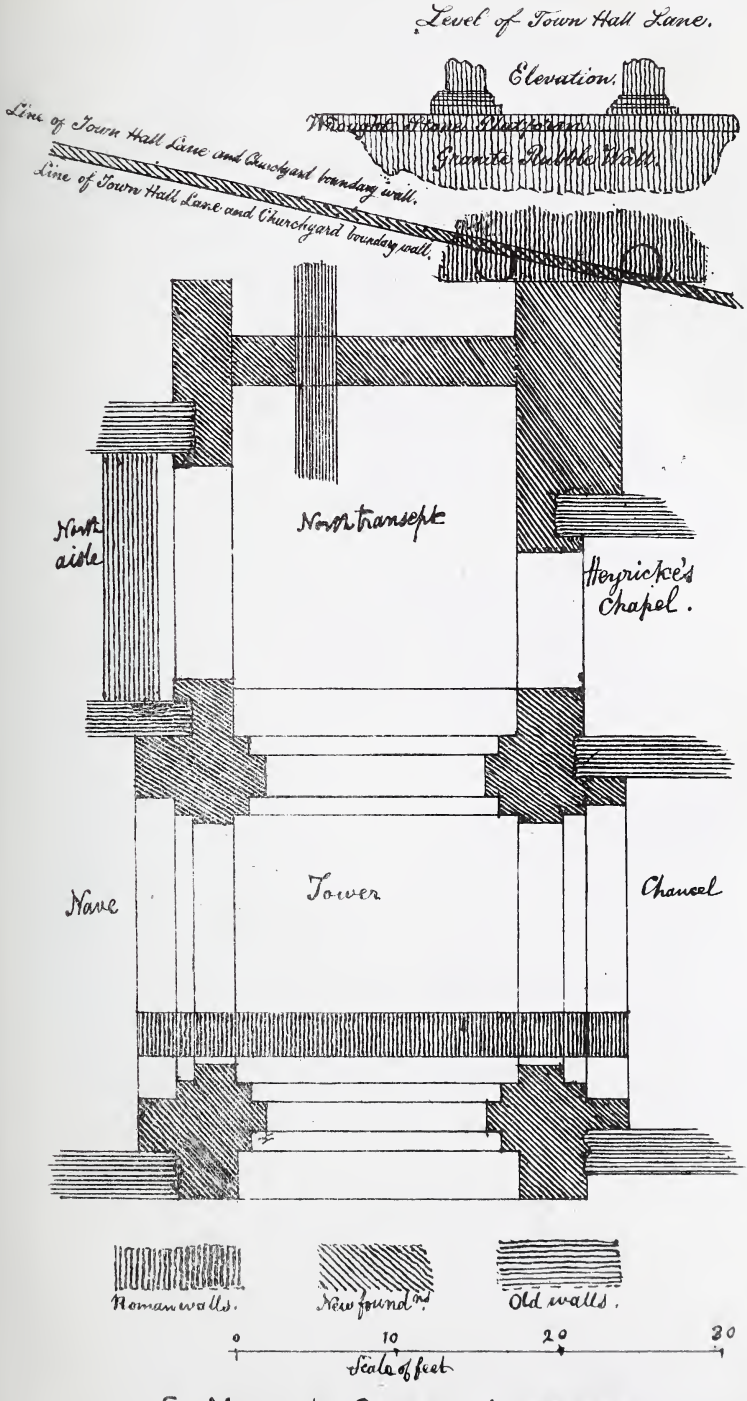
S. Andrew's Church, Leicester, is near to completion, and as an experiment testing the adaptation (in the hands of Mr. Scott) of brick in the erection of an ecclesiastical edifice without internal piers, is worthy of the closest inspection and scrutiny.

The very beautiful schools and school-house at Belgrave, from the designs of Mr. Gillett, architect, Leicester, were opened early this year: as examples of Gothic buildings admirably adapted for the purposes for which they were created, and as being at the same time a graceful ornament to the locality, your Committee can draw attention to them with great satisfaction and pleasure. The Rev. Canon James (no mean authority upon such subjects) publicly, at a late meeting of the National Society in Leicester, recommended their style and plan most strongly to all the clergy and others interested in schools and school-building.

Many other works of church restoration in the county have been begun, or completed during the year, among which may be named—Stoughton church, the tower of which has been taken down and rebuilt with great care† through the liberality of

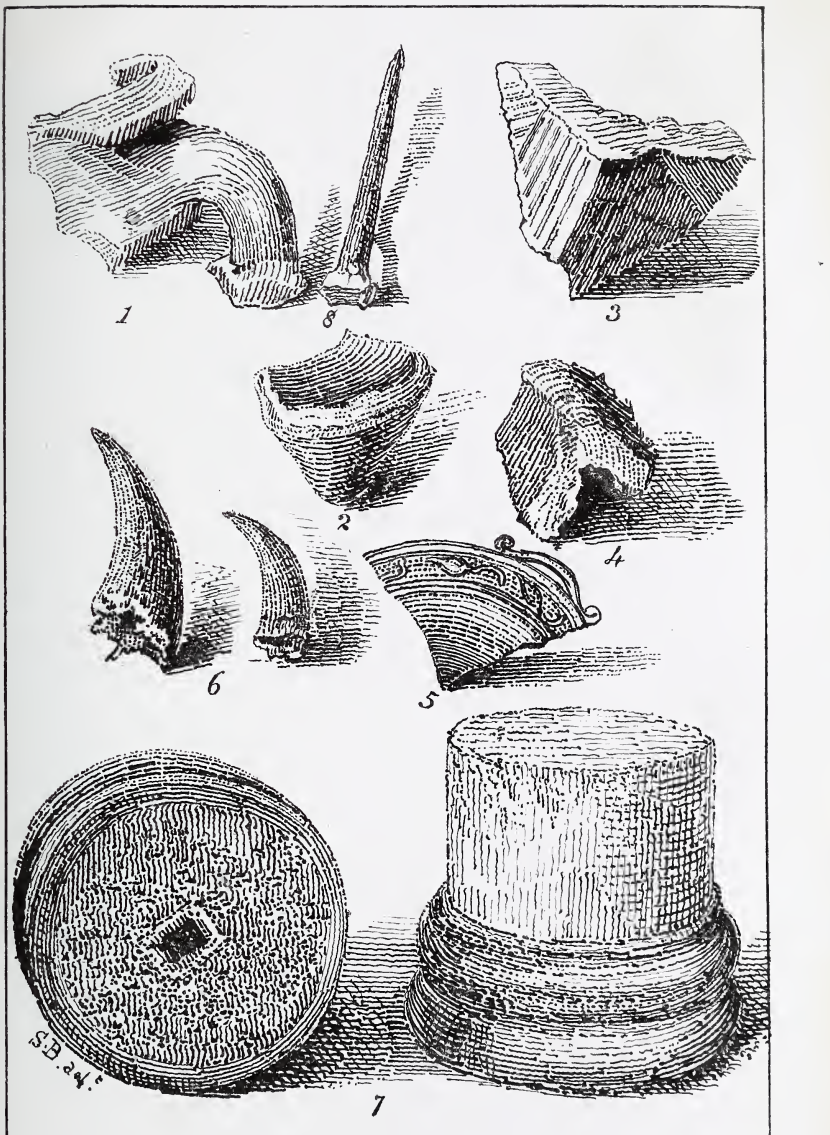
* The accompanying plan (a copy of the original plan drawn by Mr. W. Lindley, clerk of the works, and now suspended in the Leicester Museum) will explain the position of the Roman masonry.

† The manner in which the works were carried on at Stoughton is strongly urged upon the attention of all engaged in church restoration. The restoration was a most literal one, the work of



S. MARTIN'S CHURCH, LEICESTER.

Plan of Roman Antiquities, discovered, in excavating for Foundations of New Tower, etc., July, 1861.



ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

From S. Martin's Church, Leicester.

See, page 90.

1 & 2. Part of Neck and lower Portion of Amphora.
3 Part of Ridge Tile.
4 Part of Flanged Roof Tile.
5 Portion of Patera (Samian Ware) shewing one Ornamental Handle.
6 Horns of Animals.
7 Portions of Columns (see Plan) now in Leicester Museum.
8 Mediæval Oak Pin found imbedded in Norman Masonry.

a member of your Society. Other portions of the church will, as need requires and circumstances permit, also receive careful attention. Considerable works have been carried on in the churches at Husbands Bosworth, Hathern, Osgathorpe, &c., &c., whilst at S. Margaret's, Leicester—a paper upon some architectural features in which will be laid before you in your next volume—the works of repair and restoration have not been lost sight of.

The bi-monthly Meetings of the Society have been held as usual during the past year: the attendance at the meetings is not so large as your Committee could wish, and they venture to urge upon the members the importance of a more frequent attendance as a means of interchanging ideas, and communicating information, and so strengthening a taste for those particular studies, for the encouragement of which this Society was formed.

The General Meetings and Excursion of the Society were held last year at Lutterworth, when its church and that of Misterton were inspected. The Museum—which was rich in antiquarian objects and works of art, liberally sent from both rich and poor in the neighbourhood, was most numerously attended. It was open two days: on the second day upwards of six hundred persons inspected its varied contents. At the public Meeting, on the evening of the 26th of September, Mr. M. H. Bloxam read a paper upon "Lutterworth Church and the Wycliffe Relics;" and the Rev. Canon James one upon "Naseby Field." An excursion was made on the following day, under the guidance of those two gentlemen, from Lutterworth to Theddingworth *viâ* Cave's Inn (the Roman Tripontium), Lilbourne, Stanford, Sibbertoft, and Naseby, a full report of which was supplied to, and published in the local newspapers.

In conclusion, your Committee would congratulate the Society upon the addition of many new names to its list of subscribers during the past year: no fewer than forty-five gentlemen having enrolled their names as members. They have at the same time to regret the loss of a few by death and withdrawal. This addition to the members, and consequently to the resources of the Society, has determined the Committee in carrying out a project which has many times been brought before them, namely, the publication of the past Transactions of the Society. It is hoped that the first yearly part will be in the hands of members in the spring of 1862.

Mr. Bellairs presented a statement of accounts for the past year, shewing a balance in favour of the Society: after which it was

Resolved, the Report now read, and the statement of accounts, be adopted and printed in the annual volume.

The following noblemen and gentlemen were elected Presidents:—The Right Hon. the Earl of Denbigh, Sir William de Capel Brooke, Bart., Major the Hon. H. L. Powys-Keck, and Major Wollaston.

The following New Members were elected:—The Rev. James Noble Bennie, Leicester; the Rev. C. E. Waller, Humberstone; Mr. Arthur Boyer, Mr. C. R. Crossley, Mr. Cornwell, Mr. Samuel Clarke, and Mr. J. F. Sarson.

Among the articles exhibited were:

By Mr. John Hunt, a Roman Coin found in the Belgrave gravel-pit, the inscription upon which was almost obliterated; it was apparently a first bronze of Constantine. Several other Roman Coins, among which was one of Carausius, who reigned in Britain towards the close of the third century. A Fibula, flint arrow head, curiously formed flints, apparently worked into shape for sling-stones all found between Great Dalby and Burrow-on-

the mason being simply to take down the tower (which was in a dangerous state,) and so to rebuild it as to place every old stone in its original position, only inserting new stone where the decayed state of the old rendered such a course necessary.

the-Hill. A hilted sword found in a drain near Bosworth, Leicestershire, bearing the date near the hilt, "Anno 1670."

Mr. G. C. Neale exhibited a beautifully-illuminated manuscript volume of Prayers, &c., preceded by a Calendar, upon which he favoured the meeting with the following remarks:—

"To the student of Palæography, or ancient writing, the illuminated MS. I now exhibit must be deeply interesting. It is a French work, and is headed 'Heures de la croix a matines.' It dates as far back, we believe, as the end of the fourteenth, or commencement of the fifteenth century. The volume was one for private use, and contains Horæ, or prayers, psalms, and religious exercises for hours of devotion. It is embellished with twelve beautifully executed miniature paintings; the subjects principally pertaining to the history of our Saviour, such as the Adoration of the Magi—Jesus sitting in the Temple with the Doctors—the Flight into Egypt—and the Crucifixion. Each painting is descriptive of the subject which it precedes. The margins or frames are stellated with stars of gold, and are richly ornamented in a kind of Arabesque style with various specimens of mediæval botany. If they be fair specimens of the floral beauty of that age, certainly cultivation has triumphed, and made rapid progress down to the present day. The wild geranium forms a scroll-work pattern in these margins, and in its graceful bendings are introduced the pink, daisy, columbine, and other flowers. The pansy is the small oldfashioned purple and yellow flower found growing in our poor uncultivated lands. The grape and the strawberry also find a place among these marginal illustrations. In ancient illuminated, as in modern writings, the initial letter was the most important feature, and was carefully drawn and richly ornamented. The gold and colouring here used were evidently put in in a kind of paste or body colour, for in passing the finger over it will be observed that they rise above the surface of the parchment. In the present volume several of the capital letters are historiated, contain groups of figures, ecclesiastics in procession, &c. Before the introduction of typography, the writers of the age engrossed their MSS. with great care and skill. The man of letters then condescended to write a clear and legible hand. The affectation of bad writing had no existence."

The Rev. R. Burnaby exhibited two miniature portraits, fitted side by side in a small pocket case, subjects unknown.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson placed upon the table a Roman needle and bronze pin found in Leicester, and on behalf of Mr. Pindar, exhibited a curious pack of playing cards, upon which were depicted the leading incidents connected with the murder of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, in 1678; the famous plot said on the card to be "hatched at Rome!" The execution of the Jesuits, &c., &c., were most graphically depicted. The denomination of each card

appeared at the corner not coloured, but heraldically lined. The Pope's head with triple crown supplied the knave.

Mr. H. Goddard produced two Forms of Prayer set forth respectively in 1694 and 1745, for success to our arms by sea and land; a Roman bone spoon found in Causeway Lane, Leicester, together with a vase which is now in the Leicester Museum; also two enamels on copper by Laudin, the one with the legend "S. Ignatius de Loiola," the other "Franciscus Xaverius," being the work of the early part of the seventeenth century.

The Rev. J. H. Hill exhibited reprints of Bishop Gibson on the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and Family Prayer. These volumes were reprinted under the superintendence and at the expense of the Duke of Grafton.

It was resolved that the General Meeting in the summer of 1862, be held at Bosworth.

31*st March*, 1862.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett, R.D., in the chair.

The following New Members were elected:—The Hon. R. Moreton, Lindridge; T. Combe, Esq., M.A., F.R.G.S., Oxford; Mr. Wm. Musson, Leicester; Mr. Fredk. Goodyer, Leicester; and Mr. W. Ingram, Belvoir.

Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth, exhibited, through Mr. North, one of his outline drawings of a series of mural decorations he is now at work upon for a new church at Rochdale, dedicated to S. Alban, the protomartyr of England. Mr. Lea has sent to the International Exhibition now in progress in London, a screen showing the whole of the decorations from the floor to the cornice of one space between the windows on the north side of the chancel. The portion sent to the Exhibition is about twenty feet high, by four feet wide, and shows the proposed scheme for the whole of the decorations, which consist of drawings depicting the principal events in the life of S. Alban. The whole of the subjects will fill up all the available space on the chancel walls between the windows, the figures not going higher than the springing of the window arches. The wall space below will be line diapered, with emblems, &c., occasionally introduced. That part of the wall above the windows and figures will be filled with conventional foliage, diapering, &c., and the roof will be richly coloured and gilded. The richly carved stone canopy to sedilia, as well as the carving to the chancel arch and organ screen, will also be richly gilded. The whole of the drawing and colouring of the designs is the work of Mr. C. L. Lea and his assistants.

Mr. North remarked that Mr. Lea had lately secured the extra colour prize offered by the Ecclesiological Society. The exhibition of designs took place in the Kensington Museum, and there were twenty-two competitors.

The Rev. J. H. Hill exhibited a small coin of Constantinus, found at Medbourne, and a shilling of Charles I., found between Cranoe and Glooston.

Mr. Fetch, of Melton Mowbray, exhibited, through Mr. Jacques, some Anglo-Saxon antiquities, found about two years ago, with a number of skeletons, upon high ground on the north side of that town. They consisted of a number of beads, of different sizes and materials, and the remains of a knife; pottery was also found, but, unfortunately, the workmen being ignorant of its value, did not attempt to preserve any vessels, or remains of vessels, which came in their way. Since then other operations have been carried on upon the land, and although every care has been taken to examine the earth, and to search for relics, nothing beyond several skeletons has been found. These, however, and the peculiar geological formation of the ground, are not without considerable interest, as will be seen from the following extract from a valuable communication, addressed to the Secretary by Mr. Ingram, of Belvoir, who was at Melton to watch the working of the ground a fortnight ago: —"I may tell you that I was first told of the discovery of some interesting Anglo-Saxon remains at Melton, by the late Mr. Bateman, of Derbyshire, who came up to Belvoir two years ago to assist me in opening some tumuli at Saltby, and in conversation on the antiquities of the locality, mentioned the circumstance, and begged me to carefully watch any further excavations, as discoveries of great interest were more than probable. A few weeks ago, Mr. W. Adcock, whose co-operation I had secured, very kindly wrote to tell me that the brickyard workmen, in moving the surface soil to reach the substratum of gravel and clay, had reached some human remains, and I took the first opportunity of going to Melton. I found, on my arrival at the brickyard, which is situated on the hill which rises to the north of the town, that the men had removed about eighteen inches or two feet of the upper soil of the meadow, and had partially unbared seven skeletons. Mr. Fetch, the owner of the place, very kindly placed his men at my disposal, and directed them to use the utmost care in disinterring the remains. Although employing the greatest care, I found it impossible to secure a perfect skeleton; the bones were far advanced in decay, and crumbled or broke when handled. The porosity of the soil, and the nearness of the remains to the surface, which, exposing them to the varying influence of the weather, would help to account for their destruction. When the soil was scraped from the bones, a fair idea was gained of the stature of these ancient denizens of our country. One frame indicated a man fully six feet in height,

and the large bones, well developed head, perfect and complete teeth in square massive jaws, told of a powerful, well grown man; one more slender frame, with large projecting teeth, and a somewhat receding forehead and thick skull, induced me to connect it with the Celtic race. I think also from the inferior size, and greater fragility of some of the skeletons, that some of the remains were those of women and children. After noting the peculiarities of six skeletons, in unbaring what appeared to be the seventh, a head only was discovered, possibly that of a malefactor (Traitor Saxon?). In one or two instances, stones were placed beneath the head: no vestige of coffins could be discovered, and the conclusion that no coffins or cerements were used, is strengthened by the fact that the heads in several instances had been bent forward, (owing probably to a small grave,) and rested on the breast; in every instance, the right arm had been placed across the lower part of the person, a further indication that the bodies were interred in a state of nudity, natural delicacy would thus place the arms. The disposition of the bodies was east and west, the head being towards the west; the interments appear to have been made with system, the bodies lay in rows three or four feet apart. No mounds or tumuli existed, to indicate a place of sepulture. The surface of the field was laid in ridges and furrows, and the inhabitants of Melton have doubtless participated in the benefit of the vegetable products of the soil, enriched by the bodies of the founders of their town.

"To pursue a search for beads, amulets, or other relics which the former excavations produced, it was necessary to remove the bones; the earth beneath the spot occupied by the necks and arms was carefully examined, and passed through a sieve, but nothing was found; this as you may imagine, was a great disappointment; but one which those engaged in antiquarian researches are not unaccustomed to meet with. Extension of the brickyard is still in progress, and many more bodies will probably be discovered, and perhaps something that will give a clue to the date of the interments. Mr. Fetch possesses an interesting string of beads, some of them fragments of fish bone or shell, others of stone or spar, like the blue John spar of Derbyshire, and others of coloured pottery, these I think sufficiently identify the remains as those of Anglo-Saxon times.—(These were now exhibited.)—Mr. Fetch gave me a small spear head, found with the bodies formerly discovered, of which I send you a sketch. The spot is full of interest. For the sake of gravel and clay, a deep cutting has been made, and the section exhibits two interesting epochs in geological history, and one in modern. At the bottom of the cutting the lias clay formation is revealed with its gryphea, belemnites, and saurians, remains telling us that once a wide spread sea, teeming with life, swept over what is now a fair landscape. The next formation which is superimposed on the lias is the drift (northern or boulder) which

rushed over the lias after its elevation, and destroyed the huge animals which occupied the country at that period; the power and duration of the current is evidenced by the deep accumulation of large stones, borrowed from the formations it passed over, and its far spreading and destructive action is exhibited by the bones of elephas, elk, bos, which have been found in the gravel bed; this is the second page in the history of this slice of earth. The third is found in the shallow layer of alluvial soil which rests on the surface, and in which repose the bones of our early ancestors. (I omitted to mention that the shallowness of the graves was probably owing to the occurrence of the gravel bed, between two and three feet below the surface; rude people with inferior tools would not be able to break up the compact bed of stones.)"

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ingram for his interesting communication.

Mr. G. C. Neale exhibited watercolour drawings of Skeffington Church (interior) and Billesdon Church (exterior) before their recent restoration.

Mr. Sarson exhibited a Roman coin—inscription undecypherable—and a bronze ring found in S. Nicholas Street, Leicester.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson exhibited several broadsides formerly among the papers preserved in the magazine, Leicester; these, however, with a cartload more, were removed as worthless about thirty years ago.

The Rev. J. H. Hill read the following Paper upon the Langtons of Lincolnshire, which he illustrated by two worked pedigrees of that family.

THE FAMILY OF LANGTON.

The ancient and distinguished family of Langton derives its name from the pretty village of Langton, situated upon the South Wolds of Lincolnshire, between three and four miles from the town of Spilsby. At a very early period this family appears to have been divided into at least three branches, from which circumstance some degree of confusion exists in the details which have come down to us respecting it. In the county of Lancaster one portion of the family settled; they possessed the parish of Newton for many years. Leland speaks of Newton thus:—"On a brok a little poore market whereof Mr. Langton has the name of his Barony." Camden speaks of the Langtons of Haughton Tower, Lancashire; and we find in Blome's Britannia, in his list of Lancashire gentlemen, the name of Abraham Langton of Lowe, who was a descendant of the Barons of Newton. In Gregson's fragments part 2 p. 278, an extract from Mr. Percival's papers makes Langton to be Baron of Newton and Macerfield. Stowe, in his

survey, gives an epitaph concerning this family. The Langtons were also Barons of Walton.

Another branch of this family settled some three centuries back in the county of Somerset at Newton Park, and another portion of them at a later period took up their residence at Teton in Northamptonshire. The pedigrees of the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire families I have now the pleasure of laying before you. (See pages 103 and 104.)

The first person worthy of note descended from the Lincolnshire family was Stephen de Langton, who, like the Greek poet of the olden time has had various places assigned to him for his birth, yet I see no reason to despise the tradition which has been handed down from age to age, that he was born at Langton by Spilsby, in Lincolnshire, and I am confirmed in this opinion by Dean Hook, Britton, &c., although Weever, in his Funeral Monuments, says he was of an ancient family in Leicestershire, and Martin Tupper claims him as a Surrey man. Stephen de Langton was educated in the University of Paris, where he distinguished himself as a student, and was very much esteemed there by the King of France and all the nobility for his great learning. He became Chancellor of Paris, and was afterwards created by the Pope a Cardinal under the Title of St. Chrysogonus (so called, I suppose, from his having an excellent voice, vide Juvenal, 6, 74). Matthew of Westminster speaks of Langton as a man of deep wisdom, elegant person, faultless morals, and a fit and sufficient person as far as man can be to govern the Universal Church. A contest having taken place about the election of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the room of Hubert Walter, King John insisted that his favourite minister, John de Gray, Bishop of Norwich, should be elevated to that see, but Pope Innocent determined that Stephen de Langton should be consecrated, which took place at Viterbo, June 17, 1207. Upon this King John drove the Monks of Canterbury out of the kingdom, and confiscated their goods; John Harding (cap. 142) mentions the circumstance as follows:—

Bishop Hubert of Canterbury tho died,
Whereof King John unto the Convent sente,
To chose his Clarke,* which they refused and denied,
Whereof the Kyng was wroth in his entente:
For they disobeyed the lettre which he sente,
For they had chosen Mayster Stephan Langton,
An worthy Clarke, of all disposicion.
Whom Kyng John then wold not admytte
For Romayn Bull, ne for Prelates prayer,
But poisoned some and some to death commytte,
Some he exiled, and their eyen clere,
And all personnes and prelate in fere.
He then put out, and seazed theyr benefice
Through all the lande, as his mortal enemyes,
The Romysh Byshophe cursed him openly;
And all the realme fully did interdite
That sacraments none therein should occupie.

* John Gray, Bishop of Norwich.

It was in the year of Grace, 1213, that this open struggle ommenced between one of the ablest priests that ever wore a tiara, and the meanest and basest king that ever disgraced the English throne. This rupture between the Pope and King John led to the compulsive conduct of the barons afterwards. Langton was a true patriot, for he, together with six other bishops, formed the association which resisted the tyrannical proceedings of King John, and ultimately obtained Magna Charta. It was Langton who at the meeting of the heads of revolt at London, August 25th, 1213, suggested the demand for a renewal of the Charter of King Henry I., which demand was persevered in, until 1215, when Magna Charta was obtained. According to Mat. Paris, Stephen de Langton crowned Henry III. at Westminster, 17th May, 1320. It was in this year he removed the bones of Thomas à Becket at a vast expense, with great magnificence in a golden chest; so great was the expense of the translation of Becket's bones, that neither he nor four of his successors were able to recover the debt he cast his church into. (Godwin de Præsul Ang.) In 1222 Langton held a solemn council at Oxford, at which many regulations were made for the reformation of the Anglican Church. It should not be forgotten that it was through the resolution of Langton that he induced the young King Henry to give a third ratification of Magna Charta. This celebrated prelate died July 9th, 1228, at Slyndon, Sussex (the favourite retirement of the Archbishop), and was buried at Canterbury; his tomb is singularly fixed in the wall of St. Michael's Chapel, and is marked with a sculptured cross at the top. He bestowed much upon his palace in Canterbury, and upon a "faire Horologe" in the south cross aisle of the Cathedral (Godwin).

Langton is said to have been the first who divided the Bible into chapters. He wrote commentaries on most of the Books of Scripture, of which there are many MS. copies in our public libraries. Archbishop Parker says that Langton wrote many things elegantly and judiciously, and in particular the History of the Reign of King Richard the First. One of the earliest miracle plays (a Theological Drama) is supposed to have been the production of the Archbishop.

He bore for his arms—Quarterly Gules and Or, a bend argent, or according to Parker,

Per pale, Azure and Gules, a bend, or.

Simon de Langton was the only brother of Stephen Langton; he was elected to the Archbishopric of York, but taking part with his brother against the King, the Pope, at the King's instance, made void the election. Matthew, of Westminster, says that the King was afraid that if Stephen, being Archbishop of Canterbury, bore rule in the southern provinces, and his brother Simon, being made Archbishop of York, governed the northern districts, as they

would then be the two chief prelates of England, every thing would be regulated by their will, and one would be supported by the other. Simon was not a man who had much favour with the people, but through his brother's patronage he obtained the archdeaconry of Canterbury, and in favour to him Stephen de Langton much amended the archdeaconry. With the consent and confirmation of the Chapter, he annexed and united to it not only the parishes of Tenham and Hackington, but the whole jurisdiction of the diocese, with an exception and reservation only of some causes and churches. (Vide this instrument in Battersby's Somner Appendix, No. IX. A.) Louis, the French Dauphin, also in recompense of the disappointment, caused by the loss of the archiepiscopal see of York, constituted him his chancellor of Dauphiny (M. Paris). Simon de Langton founded a hospital for poor and infirm priests in the parish of St. Margaret, Canterbury. This was valued at £28. 16s. 1d. in the 28th of Henry VIII., and was dissolved 17th Elizabeth. He built a mansion at St. Stephen's, Hackington, in which successive Archdeacons of Canterbury lived for the space of three hundred years afterwards. He also built and beautified the Parish Church of Hackington. (Antiq. Rep. 122, 3.)

William de Langton is the next person worthy of remark belonging to the aforesaid family. He was the sixteenth President of Magdalen College, Oxford (from 1610 to 1620), and was distinguished for his profound learning. He married Mary, daughter of Sir W. Stonehouse, Bart., of Radley, co. Berks. He died in the year 1626.

Peregrine Langton, another descendant of the same family, was remarkable for his benevolence and hospitality. He died February 19th, 1766. The local papers of the day speak of him as follows:—"Last week was interred in the family vault the remains of Peregrine Langton, Esq., in whom all the poor within reach of his benevolence have lost a most humane and generous benefactor, and his friends and acquaintance lament a cheerful companion and a shining example of every virtue."

Next to him comes the celebrated Bennett Langton, the intimate friend and companion of Samuel Johnson. He was born at Langton in the year 1737, where he was privately educated; from whence he removed to Trinity College, Oxford. By his diligent pursuit of learning he became well skilled in the Greek language. In 1764 he was chosen a member of the Literary Club, which consisted of the most brilliant men of the day, and he had the good fortune to number among his most intimate friends, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Burke, Garrick, Beauclerk, Goldsmith, Wharton, and Chamier. George III. appointed Bennett Langton to the Professorship of Ancient Literature in the year 1785, as a fit successor of Johnson. To Mr. Langton Dr. Johnson left his Polyglott

Bible; and once, speaking of him to Boswell with affectionate regard, exclaimed, "The world does not bear a worthier man than Bennett Langton." In Boswell's Life of Johnson a great number of the Doctor's letters to Mr. Langton are printed, and several pages of Mr. Langton's recollections of the memoranda of the learned sage. Johnson died in 1784, and Langton soothed the last years of that great man by the most pleasing and affectionate attention. Johnson is said to have seized Langton's hand a short time before he breathed his last, and to have exclaimed, "Te teneam moriens deficiente manu." Dr. Bennett Langton died in 1801, æt. 64. He was the last survivor of the original members of the Literary Club. He married Mary Dowager Countess of Rothes, daughter of Gresham Lloyd, Esq., by Mary Holt, his wife, great niece of Lord Chief Justice Holt. His grandson, John Stephen, was celebrated for his scientific researches; he obtained a patent for preventing dry rot in timber. John S. Langton was born 1794, and died at the early age of 37, in 1833. The present owner of the estate is Bennett Rothes Langton, who was born in 1840.

William Henry Powell Gore Langton, M.P. for West Somerset from 1851 to 1859, is a descendant of William Langton, of the above named family. William Langton married Dorothy, daughter of John Littlebury, Esq., who was the son of John Langton (ob. 1530) by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Wm. Quadring, Esq. Wm. Gore Langton married, 1846, Anna Eliza Mary, only daughter of the late Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

The arms of Gore Langton, of Newton Park, are:—Quarterly, first and fourth grand quarters. Quarterly, first and fourth ar.; three chevrons gu. Second and third arg.; a cross moline sa. for Langton. Second and third grand quarter, gules a fesse between three cross crosslets, fitchée, or.

Gervase Holles visited Langton Church, and left the following notes respecting it:

Ecclesia sanctorum Petri et Pauli Apostolorum
In insula Boreali
Fenestra
Falconem tibi do pia virgo mei memor esto
Effigies viri gestantes Falconem
Tumulus Lapideus.
Hic jacet Elizabetha uxor John Langton, Arm., et filia
W. Quadring.
Arm. quæ obiit 4 die Maie, A.D. 1524.

(N.B.—The top of this tomb is still in existence, having been placed as a flooring slab in the body of the church, which was rebuilt some years back in the Palladian style of architecture. It is greatly worn, and it is a pity that it is not taken up, and restored.)

Fenestra Australis
Effigies scorum Petri et Pauli Apostolorum.
A plain cross.
Quarterly, sa. et arg.; a bend or, Langton.
Impaled, three Fleurs de lis, in chief, a lion passant.
A fesse Nebule between three roses.
In insula Boreali.
Hic jacet Rich. Ligh, generosus servus, Dom. reg. Hen. 8.
Hic jacet Johannes Wortes, istius ecclesiæ Rector, qui ob. 6 Sep., 1582.

The registers of Langton Parish commence in the year 1558.

At Langton (in Leicestershire) was born the celebrated Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. He was consecrated to the see in 1296. He was Lord Treasurer of England, and was in great favour with Edward I., King of England, who, in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, granted liberty of free warren to him at West and Thorpe Langton. Bishop Langton was deprived of his office of Lord Treasurer for no other reason than his having reproved the Prince (Edward II.), and refused him money for his extravagance during his father's lifetime; no legal proceedings, however, were resorted to in this case. Bishop Langton was a great benefactor to Lichfield Cathedral, having built the stately and sumptuous Lady Chapel there, at an immense expense. He also gave plate, jewels, copes, and vestments of great value to the Church, and procured thereto many charters and great privileges. The bishop died November 16, 1321, and was buried in the Lady Chapel of his Cathedral.

There was also a Thomas de Langton, who was Bishop of Winchester from 1493 to 1500, in which year he died of the plague, having been previously elected Archbishop of Canterbury. The chapel dedicated to him is on the southern side of Winchester Cathedral; it is profusely enriched with carvings in oak of armorial subjects. Amidst the ornaments Bishop Langton's motto, "Laus tibi Christi," is frequently repeated. The rebus of his name—"a musical note called 'long,' inserted in a 'tun,'" occurs on the groining, amidst a profusion of others. Near the centre of this chapel is the Bishop's tomb, originally extremely elegant, but now entirely deprived of its ornaments. Whether this Thomas de Langton was born in Leicestershire I know not.

John de Langton was presented to the rectory of Langton in 1306, by Sir Thos. de Latimer, but he resigned the living in 1337. A second John de Langton was presented to the living of Church Langton by the Archbishop of Canterbury and others, November 9, 1440. He was twice Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, 1437 and 1444, and also Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, from 1428 to 1447. He resigned the living of Langton in 1446.

The Langton family spoken of by Weever, and possibly descended from the Lincolnshire family, held lands at Hemington, in the parish of Lockington, in Leicestershire. At Church Langton, in this county, we find that in the 2nd of Henry V.

(1414), Thomas de Langton held lands there, and from Wyrley and Burton mention is made of a monument in Langton Church. This, I am sorry to say, has disappeared, although there are persons living who remember its position in the church. The monument had the following arms and inscription:—

1. Azure, an eagle displayed with two heads, or, a bend sable—Langton.
2. Argent, on a band sable, five bezants, or—Palmer.

Of this family was John de Langton, a Carmelite Friar in London. Bale styles him "Bacchalaureus ordinis Carmel," and Tanner says of him "Scholas frequentavit et inter supremos theologios merito commemoratus est." This John de Langton, when Courtenay, Archbishop of Canterbury, and other prelates, assembled with King Richard II. at Stamford, in 1392, condemned the heresy of William Crump, a Cistercian Monk of Ireland; he wrote a book called the Trial of Henry Crump, D.D.; another against the errors of Dr. Crump; and also a book concerning the ordinary acts of the Carmelite Friars. He died 1400.

The family of Langton, at Teton, Northamptonshire, was probably an offshoot of the family of Langton, of Langton by Spilsby.

Upon the north side of the Parish Church of Ravensthorpe (Northants) is a marble table with—

Arms Quarterly, sab. and or; a bend arg., Langton.
Impaling arg. on a cross, five bezants, Stratton.
Crest of Langton two winged serpents, V. interwoven and erect on their tails, V.
In this place rest the remains of
Thomas Langton, of Teeton, Esq., who died August 21, 1662, aged 70 years.
And also of Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Langton, Esq., who died Sep. 2, 1762, æt. 60.
The aforesaid Thos. Langton was High Sheriff of Northamptonshire in the year 1735.

Mention is made of a Robert Langton, LL.D., who founded a school at Appleby, Westmoreland; nor should be forgotten William de Langton, Dean of York, who died 1375, the marble slab of whose tomb is still in existence at York Cathedral, which has been placed on the tomb of Archbishop Thomas Rotherham, second founder of Lincoln College, Oxford.

1341

Pedigree of Langton, Lincolnshire.

John Langton = dau. of Sir John Green, Knt.

William de Langton = dau. of Rob. de Tateshall.

William Langton = —

John Langton = dau. of Sir Rob. Aske, Knt.

John Langton = dau. of — Hardingshead.

William Langton = —

John Langton = Dau. of Wm. de Braytoft.

John Langton = Dau. of Sir John Fitz Symon, Knt.

John Langton = Dau. and Heir of Momby.

John de Langton = Jane, dau. of Sir Nicholas Tamworth, Knt.

Sir Thomas de Langton, Knt. = Anne, daughter of Sir Symon Rochford, Knt.

John de Langton = Eliz dau. of — Portington.

Thomas Langton = Margaret, dau. of — Harington.

John Langton = Catherine, dau. and coheir of John Meeres of Saltfleet.

John Langton, ob. 1530 = Eliz. dau. of William Quadring.

Alexander = Cicely dau. of John Bittesby. William = Dorothy, Dau. of John Littlebury.

John Langton, ob. 1572 = Rose, dau. of John Littlebury.

From this gentleman is descended the [Langtons of Newton Park, Somerset.

John Langton, ob. 1583 = Anne, dau. of L. Palmer of Burgh.

Sir John Langton, Knt., ob. 1610. = Eliz. dau. Wm. Dalison.

William ob. 1626 æt. 64. = Mary, dau. of Sir W. Stonehouse, Bart.

William Langton = —

President of Mag. Coll., Oxon.

George Langton, ob. 1695, æt. 78 = —

George Langton, ob. 1727, æt. 80 = Mrs. Mary Tindale, of Westminster, 1684.

Bennet Langton, ob. 1769, æt. 73 = Diana, dau. of Edmund Turner.

Bennet Langton, LL.D. ob. 1801, æt. 64 = Mary, Dowager Countess of Rothes.

George Langton = Eliz. dau. of Thos. Mainwaring.

Peregrine = Elizabeth A. Massingberd

John Stephen Langton ob. 1533, æt. 37. = Alice Armstrong.

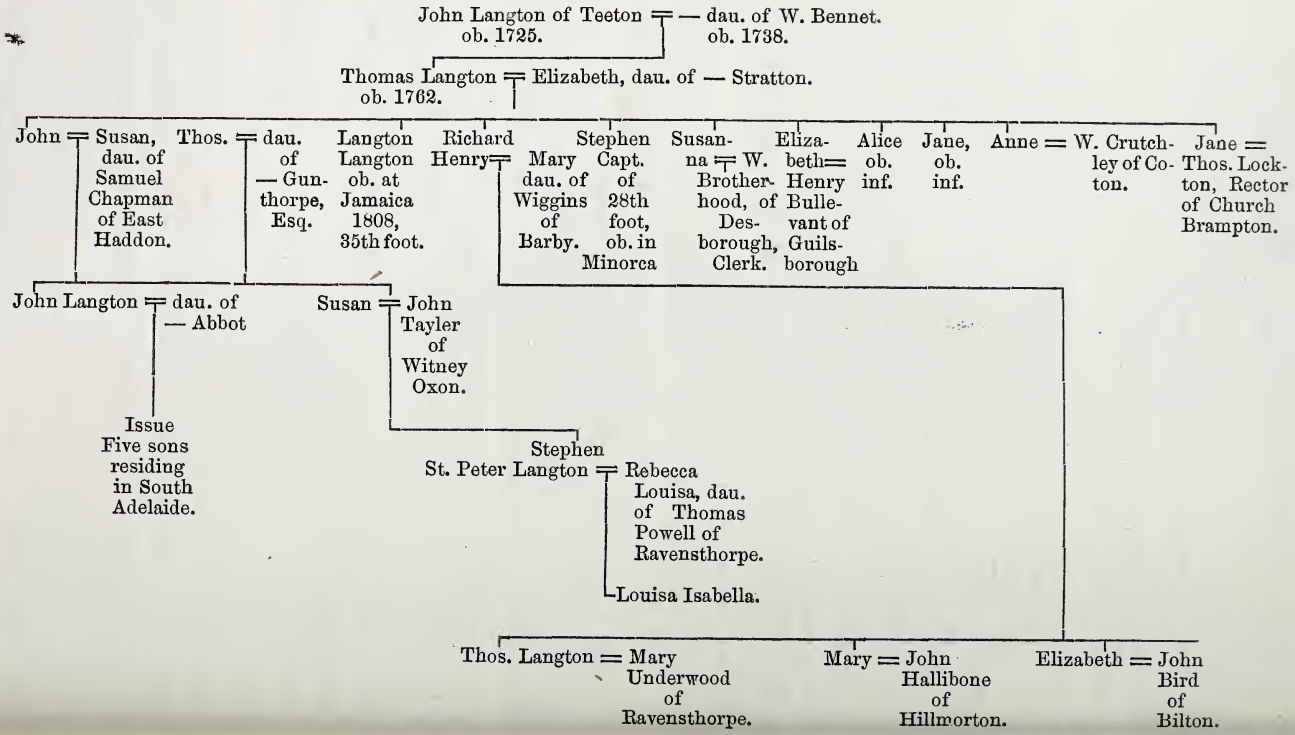
Algernon Langton Massingberd = Caroline, dau. of W. Pierce

George Bennet Langton = Marianne Brackenbury.

Algernon = =

Bennet Rothes Langton, born 1840 = Lucy Katharine, dau. of Langhorne Burton, Rector of Somersby, 1684, co. Lincoln.

Langton of Northamptonshire.



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OF

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IN LEICESTER,

DURING THE REIGNS OF HENRY VIII., EDWARD VI., MARY, AND ELIZABETH,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF ITS MINOR ALTARS AND ANCIENT GUILDS,

COMPILED FROM ORIGINAL AND CONTEMPORANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

BY THOMAS NORTH,

Honorary Secretary of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

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The contents include . . . . . the uses of the sacring bell, thurible, the veil, holy fire, incense, monstrance, ostensorium, pax, piscina, censer, chrismatory, corporale, cruets, Easter sepulchre, &c., &c.—*Building News.*

Some of its contents—the symbolism of the altar-stone, candles on the altar, the paschal candle, the corporale, the brass eagle, the eulogia, or holy loaf, the roodloft, holy water, the pax, symbols of the evangelists, &c.—*Stamford Mercury.*

. . . . . a very trusty and instructive monograph he places before us, throwing light and interest over a transition period of English history. It is of much more than parochial value. It illumines the broad story of our country—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

This beautifully-printed volume consists of extracts from early churchwardens' accounts and from records of ancient guilds which possessed chantries in the old Church of S. Martin, Leicester, together with copious annotations in which Mr. North explains the ancient ritual of the church, the furniture and the ornaments of the fabric and the officiating clergy, and the origin and history of the town guilds. . . . . Mr. North's interesting volume does not, however, consist of dry extracts such as we have indicated, but is made up independently of these with pleasant discussions, and with much information which just now is assuming importance. This information he has contrived to present divested of all dryness, and attractive by means of the skill with which he has arranged his materials.—*Churchman.*

TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

VOL. II.—PART 2.

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1867.

Price Three Shillings and Sixpence.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 26*th*, 1862.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: the Rev. John Fisher (Leicester), Mr. E. J. Simons (Manor House, Ullesthorpe), and Mr. Foxton (Leicester).

Mr. G. H. Nevinson exhibited a small silver coin of Hadrian, (A.D. 117 to 138), found near the Fosse Road, by Leicester. The coin of this reign is important in number, variety, and artistic skill, and interesting to English collectors from the fact of Hadrian himself having visited Britain.

Mr. Hunt (Thurnby) showed a spur apparently of the time of Henry VIII., with a star-like rowel upon a somewhat short neck, that form having superseded, about the time indicated, the very long neck spurs previously in use. That gentleman also produced a number of small Roman coins found in Leicester, also a farthing of Charles I. (?) which from its poverty of execution and baseness of metal, proved the truth of Humphrey's remarks upon the attempted introduction of copper farthings in this reign—"The farthings being of course below their intrinsic value, caused endless discontent and disturbance."

Mr. James Thompson exhibited various articles of considerable interest, which he explained in the following remarks: "In laying before the Society to-day two articles of a date approaching the close of the seventeenth century, I am aware that their antiquarian interest is less than that of objects of more ancient character, but the dagger and sconce which I exhibit to-day for Mr. Henry Goddard are worthy of inspection. The dagger has a crown engraved upon it, and a crowned head stamped upon it, and it bears on one side, near the hilt, the inscription "GOD SAVE KING

JAMES, 1686." The sconce, or candlestick, has a hook to hang against a wall. It is curiously wrought with scroll ornaments. It bears the initials R.B.P., and the date 1684. It has been used very much as the sconces represented in Mr. Wright's work on *Mediæval Manners and Customs* were used, and would seem to have been placed in some public room or large apartment. Two other things which I bring to-day belong to Policeman Hart, who has entrusted them to me for exhibition. The one is a black urn of Roman character, probably an unguent jar. The other is probably a mortar or handmill, which was found near Mountsorrel. The urn was found in removing the earth to make a cellar in Lower Brown Street, Leicester. Both should, I think, be placed in the Leicester Museum. I here take the opportunity of saying that Policeman Hart has proved himself very serviceable in watching over and preserving antiquarian remains found at intervals in making street excavations in Leicester. He has an intelligent and discriminating appreciation of the remains discovered, but I regret to learn that he has experienced annoyance and obstruction in the prosecution of his endeavours. I am sure that the Watch Committee of the Borough would, if they were aware of the fact, check the annoyance to which Hart is exposed, and allow him to act in future as he has done hitherto, with advantage to the Museum and to the antiquarian gratification of the public, in respect to local excavations and discoveries."

MR. VINCENT WING (Melton Mowbray) contributed the following paper upon

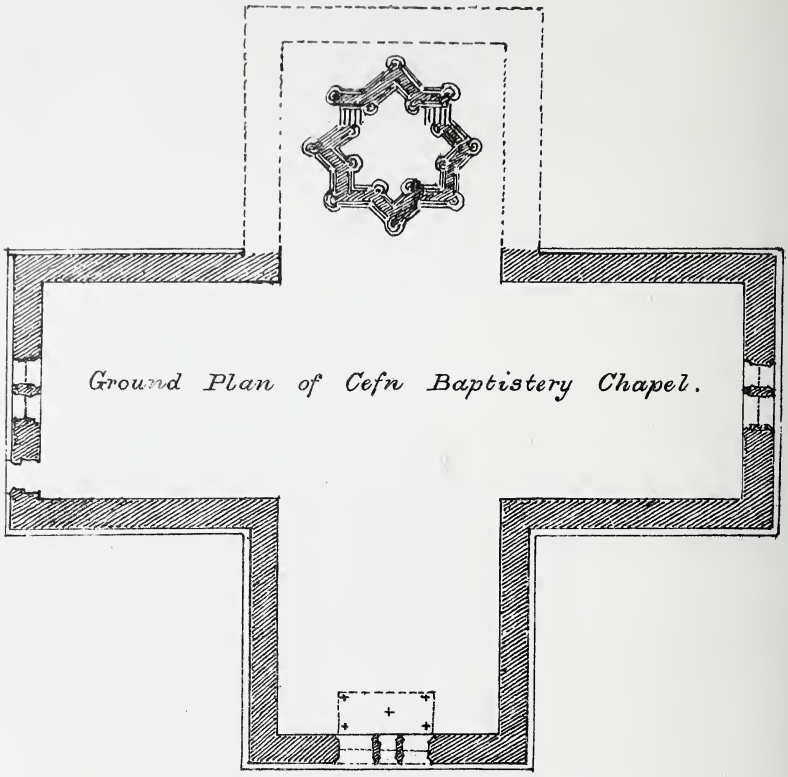
HOLY WELLS,

which was read in that gentleman's absence by the Secretary, Mr. North:—

The subject of Holy Wells, it is submitted, is worthy of the consideration of our Society; and in the hope of provoking more extensive research, the following brief paper has been drawn up. As the archæologist attempts to retrace the history of them to their origin, the mind is carried back to a remote antiquity, but can only conjecture the source in which they have had their commencement. In pursuing the inquiry, however, we enter upon a flowery path in which poetry and fancy afford the richest sensations of romance; for both the classic and the modern muses garnish their choicest strains of narrative with conceptions drawn from the sacred spring or venerable holy-well. We are at once reminded of the nymphs in the imagination of the ancients, and the many fanes or grottoes with their streams hard by, whose mysterious waters were the reputed baths of deities, and the subjects of so many fictions. It is not inadmissible to suppose that these notions and mysteries which have been transmitted so

extensively have, like others widely disseminated, had their commencement in obscure traditions and perversions of some important realities: the marvels of the Jordan, or of Siloam and Bethesda, may have been the prototypes to produce the counterfeits of ancient story. Then the superstitions of the heathen, we know, were often adopted, and would easily be grafted on the practices of an unenlightened age of the church's history. The mind of the vulgar clings with tenacity to resorts for gifts of healing, or communication from unseen spirits; and the teaching of a better faith would not escape the mixture of such delusion. Hence, not only has the pagan sprinkling of holy water been introduced in the middle ages, but localities of streams or fountains have been confided in for a mysterious presence and supernatural virtues. In fact wells of heathen fame have been transferred to saints in many instances. The legendary history connected with our subject bears us to the very extreme of poetic license; and the faith in it has been more than excessive. How many of our English towns owe their names, or the terminations of them, to their sites, which were selected from the supposed guardianship that accompanied the sainted wells that they could boast of. Not only does the city of Wells derive its name from its own St. Andrew's, but we may infer that the Chadwells, the Holwells, the Barwells, the Eastwells, and others of our own county even, had their high repute for healing or benedictory attractions; and the streams which once lured the pilgrim to devotions and works of supererogation, may still be found to luxuriate upon, with pensive contemplation of the past, and thankfulness for the brighter light that has dispersed the fogs of superstition. Frequently has mediæval art enshrined the sacred spot, and the structures have been singularly picturesque. One laments on this account that, from their delicate construction and the deadness of archæology in later times, so few now exist to illustrate the artistic skill and the romantic fancy of our forefathers. Still the imagination is aided by some solitary remaining examples; and with them, and the knowledge of what was once attributed to the patron saint, we may bring up visions of the past, and place ourselves for the moment amongst these exquisites of bygone times. The most remarkable relic of this description is that existing at Holywell, in North Wales. We may suppose that this has escaped the ravages of time and an ultra-protestantism through the appeal made by its great beauty, and the durable character of the stonework. The notable legend of St. Winifred may possibly have secured for it a continued veneration; for a lingering faith in what had once been paramount in the traditions of a simple people is not easily extinguished; and the *Golden Legend*, published in 1512, would be treasured and appealed to as the exponent and verification of the story. If any one present has not seen the building, the small engravings now exhibited will give an idea of it.

When a spring or stream had gained repute for celestial occupancy, it was a practice to choose a site upon it for a baptistery; and probably most holy wells have been thus honoured, or, at least, have served the purpose of furnishing the water for administration of baptism in the immediate district. But besides this common use, the superstitious reliances on the saints of these springs for various helps have been remarkable, and the powers of cure imputed to them were innumerable. Each well was commonly in repute for its own specific virtue, and this will often give an interest in tracing the origin of their names. Even to the present day the Wishing-wells perpetuate the absurdities of these superstitions; where the drop of a pin is supposed to gain the wish that accompanies it. But leaving the puerilities of the present and the grosser delusions of past ages, there are aspects in which we may look back upon the history of these things with more favour; for benevolent intentions and pious devotion are seen in a manner to command our admiration. There are numerous examples of baptistery and hermitage remains in Cornwall. In many cases the hermit's cell has been built near the sacred spring on some cliff, or sea commanding eminence, or even insulated rock, that at the tempest's howl the recluse might be engaged in watching the dangers of the seafaring adventurers, and ply his earnest intercessions in their favour, or aid in restoring the half-drowned mariners. Such self-sacrifice and devotion to the vital interests of others is worthy of perpetuated remembrance, if only to provoke to equal zeal the professors of a purer faith. The river Lene at Nottingham had a fame of great antiquity: the hermitages which were upon its bank, not long ago, showed carvings of details of Norman architecture. Other holy wells, with the hermit's oratory, have had their sites remarkable for their extreme seclusion, as being favourable to ascetic sentiment, and some for the impressive scenery surrounding them. In this brief notice of the subject, no elaborate research after existing examples is undertaken. Their design and a general view of them only are aimed at To give an account of the many relics of this class, with their history, traditions, and supernatural attributes, the imputation of which still lingers in some instances, would be more laborious than valuable. One ruin of a Well-chapel, however, may properly be brought into especial notice, as it is but little known, and its charms are so extraordinary. In the beautiful vale of Clwyd, near the Cefn rocks, there remains a small cruciform chapel. It was in the form of a Greek cross, the four limbs being equal; the walls of the three eastern limbs of the cross area are yet standing, and the western portion has enough remaining to show what the fabric was when entire. The well is in the nave, or more properly the western limb, and the wall enclosing the well is still in good preservation to the height of some eighteen inches above the flooring. There is happily



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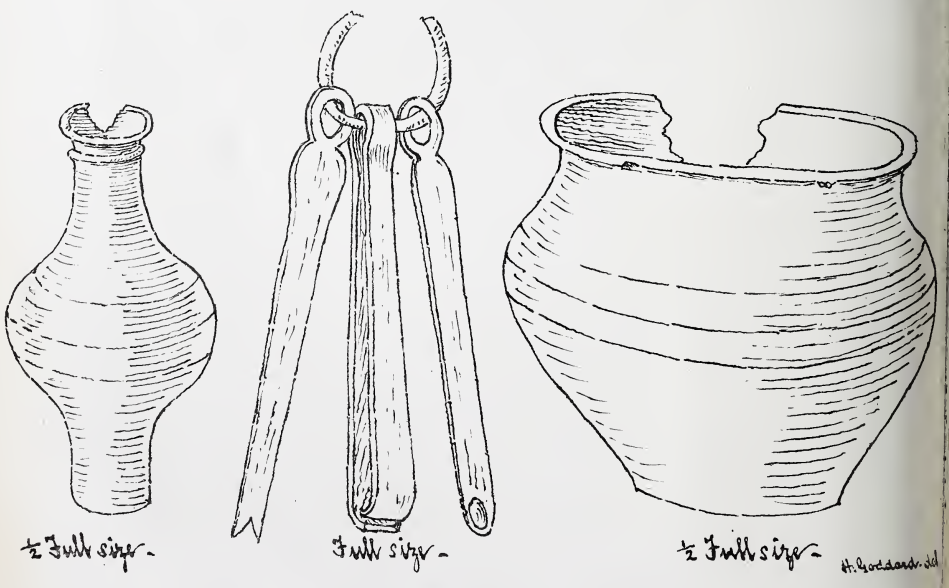


Antiquities found in Leicester.

(see page 112.)

sufficient to show the curiously elegant design of this baptistery, as we may suppose it to have been, the bases of the shafts and other details being tolerably perfect. The enclosure of the well is angular, presenting in plan a kind of asterisk, and from each inner and outer angle has risen a slender and elegant pillar, thus encircling the fount with a double colonnade, which, with the main walls of the building, would support a ribbed and groined roof with intersections and ramifications, resulting altogether in a singular display of taste and beauty. But trees are growing in the midst of the building, and their roots threaten speedy destruction of the chapel walls. Its claims for preservation should be earnestly pressed upon the present owner. If there be such a thing as æsthetic religion, this must have been its most favoured residence: we may contemplate its power to captivate as visited in the summer, with the scorching sun imparting relish for the shade under a canopy of verdant splendour. Embosomed as is this sacred fane in really enchanting scenery, where the gurgling, pellucid stream, and rocks of fantastic shape and singular richness do their utmost with the crowded trees of various foliage to make the glen unrivalled in its charms and sweetness—the woodland songstress holding perpetual festivity, and the darting finny tribe bespeaking an enjoyment of fairy tale rather than of ordinary existence—here the calm retreat and gorgeous scene must have imparted an unearthly sensation most potent for reverie and religious abstraction. In our observations, however, we would not cater for mere fancy and romance, nor by any means commend the lurid and sickly conceptions of ascetic life: the visitant of such an earthly paradise may advance in holy contemplation to the really sublime and beautiful, and not less rational than devout, concentrating his affections upon the great Parent of creation, let the loveliness of nature evoke blissful effusion to the God of nature, who is a God of love. To this little baptistery chapel attention is particularly invited. A ground plan is herewith presented to show the arrangement.*

At the close of the proceedings, Mr. James Thompson called attention to a discovery made that morning of a human skeleton at the Bow Bridge, Leicester. The remains consisted of a skull, shoulder bones, ribs, leg and thigh bones, and other osseous particles, together with the skull of a horse, and the horn of an ox. The human remains were laid before the Society, with a view to their inspection. One of the members present being a medical practitioner (Mr. J. Hunt, Thurnby), the bones underwent an anatomical examination. The conclusion arrived at was that the skeleton was that of a man of early or middle life, certainly not more than thirty years of age, of short stature and slight frame. They were found in the mud close to the north side of the bridge

* Kindly reproduced in anastatic drawing for this volume by Mr. Bull.

just removed, at the depth of about three feet below the bed of the river. It would appear that the earth had been carried away, and a considerable hollow formed, since filled up with mud, at the spot indicated, and there the bones found a resting place, a short distance below the level of the foundations of the piers of the bridge. Tradition and history both relate that the remains of Richard III., when taken up from their grave in the church of the Grey Friars, Leicester, were carried away by the multitude, and thrown over the Bow Bridge into the river. This tradition or fact is still sufficiently strong to cause an impression in some quarters that the bones now discovered are those of the unfortunate monarch, though there are numerous reasons why such a fact is highly improbable. The skull and other bones bore not the slightest appearance of having been struck or fractured, whereas Richard's body was "hacked to pieces." Richard died aged thirty-five. These were stated by competent judges to be the remains of a young man, certainly not more than thirty years old; neither is it at all probable that the bones of Richard, supposing them to have been thrown over the bridge exactly over the spot where these were found, would not have been more scattered, when the lapse of time is considered between his burial in the Grey Friars and the desecration of his tomb. This discovery, however, is sufficiently curious to elicit many and various remarks and opinions. It was therefore recommended that the bones should be preserved for further examination by anatomists, and those who might be interested in the matter.*

* The following paragraphs from the *Leicester Chronicle* not only give an interesting account of the Old Bow Bridge, but also relate to the above-mentioned discovery.

"The readers of this paper resident in Leicester are aware that the old bridge on the western side of the town, known as Bow Bridge, has recently been taken to pieces, stone by stone, and entirely removed, in order to make way for a new bridge, more commodious for foot-passengers, and affording a wider waterway below for the stream, in case of periodical inundations. Bow Bridge was historical. It was that over which Richard the Third, with his army, rode to the neighbourhood of Bosworth, and where, striking his spur against the parapet, tradition tells us an aged woman cursed him and told him that when he next came that way his head should strike where his heel had struck. The ancient fabric had five semi-circular arches. It was about six feet wide, with niches at intervals, on both sides, in which persons on foot could stand aside while wagons or other vehicles crossed. Below the niches were piers, with cut-waters on the outside. The bridge was probably constructed in the twelfth century, previous to which there would be a ford; the road having been in all likelihood formed as early as the Roman times, as a *via vicinalis*, or branch way from the town to the Fosse Road passing by Danett's Hall. In its lower masonry it was the same structure as that over which the host of Richard marched to the fated field of Bosworth; but of late years the parapets have been altered, and a kind of patchwork of brick has been added to various portions.

"During the progress of the work the stream has been stopped and boards have been thrown across the channel, north and south of the site of the old bridge; so that the bed of the old river has been left comparatively dry, and earth has been removed to make way for foundations.

"The bed of the channel does not seem to have been deep—not more than six or seven feet below the surface of the adjoining banks, leaving ordinarily from three to

July 20th, 1862.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby in the chair.

The following New Members were elected: Sir Alexander B. C. Dixie, Bart., Market Bosworth Hall; The Rev. J. M. W. Piercy, Slawston; The Rev. John Spittal, Leicester; Mr. J. J. Douglas, Market Harborough; Mr. Alfred Cooper, Leicester.

Mr. North (Honorary Secretary) reported that the arrangements for an Excursion to Bosworth Field in conjunction with

four, or at most five feet of water above the bottom of the channel. The nature of the soil here was of course muddy and filthy, being a deposit formed when the waterways near the town were the receptacles of all its refuse matter from manufactories and other places; but this surface deposit being penetrated, the gravel presented itself. It was found that stakes and faggots had been laid below the piers of the old bridge; and in one part, near the eastern end, while the workmen were digging in the bed of the river, in a part where the ground had evidently been at some early period excavated to some depth, and the black, muddy, slushy soil had settled in its place, they discovered a human skeleton. Apparently thrown into the water back downwards, the skull was lying face upwards, the knees drawn towards the head. This was about eighteen inches north of the east pier of the old bridge, and extending three feet backwards, at right angles to the bridge. The skeleton lay about two feet six inches below the bed of the stream, in the black deposit occupying the space which the gravel originally and naturally occupied. Near the bones were found the skull of a horse and the horn of an ox, with other bones of an animal.

"The remains were carefully picked up by the navvies, placed in a basket, and carried to the Borough Surveyor's office. They were afterwards taken to the Town Library, and there exhibited. On Tuesday, Mr. Lankester, surgeon, of this town, very obligingly complied with a request to examine the bones minutely, with a view to determine the sex and probable age of the individual of whose bodily structure they had once constituted the framework. The inspection took place in the Borough Surveyor's office, where Mr. Lankester re-arranged the whole skeleton, finding it very nearly complete. His conclusions are embodied in these notes:—

'Having examined the human bones discovered in excavating the foundation of the old Bow Bridge, I find them to represent an almost perfect skeleton, there being only three of the vertebræ, and the smaller bones of the hands and feet, wanting. I have no hesitation in pronouncing the individual to whom the exhumed bones belonged to be about twenty years of age, and, I am inclined to believe, of the male sex; though, owing to a partial mutilation of the pelvis, this point is somewhat difficult to decide upon positively. From the small size of the bones, I infer that the subject under notice must have been somewhat below average height, and of weak muscular development.

'H. LANKESTER,
'Surgeon.'

'May 29, 1862.'

"In order still further to elucidate the mystery connected with the discovery, the skull was on Wednesday laid before a gentleman temporarily resident in this town, who has for many years studied phrenology, and who is the author of a work on the subject, widely circulated in Germany. The report of this gentleman is that the skull is that of a young person, of inferior intellectual development, who possessed some constructive skill, with large animal propensities; and that the skull would not have remained a century in the place and soil where it was discovered.

"The remains have probably been drifted by the current, at some by-gone period, from the place where the body fell, or was thrown into the water, to the hole of soft earth in which they settled near the pier of the bridge. It is not improbable that the person who thus perished was either thrown in violently or was a suicide."

the British Archæological Association, the Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire Societies, and the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, on the 6th August were completed.

Mr. Goddard exhibited an urn or vase found near Danett's Hall, Leicester. He also shewed a ring holding a pair of tweezers, an ear-pick and a tooth-pick forming a good specimen of an Anglo-Saxon lady's chatelaine. These relics of the domestic life of the Anglo-Saxon ladies (which proved they paid considerable attention to their personal appearance), were found near the Butt-close Lane, Leicester. Also a small vessel of Roman pottery,—an unguentarium,—also found in Leicester. (*Vide Illustration*, p. 109.)

Mr. Hunt produced several English and Roman coins.

August 6th, 1862.

EXCURSION TO BOSWORTH FIELD.

A large number of carriages containing members of this Society, of the British Archæological Association (then holding its congress in Leicester), of the Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire Architectural Societies, and of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, assembled in the Market Place, Leicester, at Ten o'clock. The first place visited was Kirby Muxloe, where all dismounted to inspect the ruins of its ancient castle.

The Rev. Prebendary Trollope, M.A., F.S.A., read the following Paper upon

KIRBY MUXLOE CASTLE.

It will not be necessary now to search into the more remote history of Kirby Muxloe, because our object in coming here is an architectural one, viz., to inspect a charming old specimen of ancient brickwork, that is well worthy of study; so that we need confine our attention only to the features of the building now before us. Happily, its date is known from the evidence of a grant made to William, the historically famous Lord Hastings, by Edward IV., and dated April 17th, 1474, wherein he gives leave to his chamberlain, the said Lord Hastings, to wall in and enclose his manor house of Kirby Muxloe with a stone wall, to fortify and embattle it, as well as to inclose and impark two thousand acres of land and wood, with the appurtenances of his demesne at Kirby Muxloe, together with the right of free warren.

Sir Ralph de Hastings was the first of the family possessed of this place, who acquired it by his marriage with the heiress of the Herle family; and here William Lord Hastings is traditionally

reported to have brought the notoriously lovely Jane Shore, after the death of Edward IV., whose extraordinary beauty had captivated him as well as his late Sovereign.

The situation of this edifice is low, owing to the custom prevalent during the fifteenth century of encircling all residences of importance with a single or a double moat, over which were thrown drawbridges connected with gatehouses and portcullises. Throsby in his *Leicestershire Views*,—always quaint,—is quite himself in the description he gives of Kirby Muxloe, when he says that "it something resembles a place of annoyance," and that "one of its towers is making hasty strides towards complete annihilation," whence, I presume, we may infer that the towers of Kirby Muxloe were formerly in the habit of sallying out on certain bellicose and most dangerous expeditions! But, however this may have been, we are quite sure that its features have, considering all things, waged a very successful battle with the elements, and are glad that so much of the original fabric still remains, notwithstanding the neglect it has long experienced at the hands of man. The whole is of red brick, relieved by some diapering on the principal front, composed of bricks of a darker tint, and stone dressings.

It will be observed that much of the good effect of this bit of brickwork is produced by the use of thinner bricks than those now commonly used; the mortar also forming wide joints between the bricks is of an admirable quality, being still so sound and fresh that it is hard to believe in the date when it was undoubtedly made and applied. The plain but substantial vaulting over the newel staircases and elsewhere is also worthy of attention.

Having approached the entrance of the Castle, which is defended by a formidable gatehouse that still remains in a fairly perfect state, and passed over the moat where a drawbridge was placed in former days, the lateral grooves and deep slit above for a portcullis will be seen, and then the tremendous hooks,—three on either side of both ends of the gatehouse archway, that formerly supported equally massive folding doors.

Between these are doorways, one on either side of the archway, opening into small rooms, one of which was, no doubt, the porter's lodge; over the archway was a large room, perhaps used as a state dining hall, approached by two newel staircases on either side, within octangular turrets, which also gave access to several other smaller rooms. At the angles of this front of the Castle were formerly two towers of considerable dimensions and three stories high, connected by stout walls with the central feature, already described. One of these towers alone now remains—that on the south-west side. It contained three principal rooms, one over the other, each supplied with a fireplace and chimney; the lower one perhaps served as a hall, or guard room for the servants,

the one over it as the lord's hall, or principal living room, and the uppermost as his "solar," or sleeping room.

Adjoining each of these is a small chamber and closet within, a second smaller tower applied to the larger one, while another similar feature contains the staircase, also built of brick. The doorways here are neatly constructed of chamfered and moulded bricks; but perhaps the most interesting features are at the base of this tower, and at other points of this the principal façade,—viz., circular apertures with sight-slits above them, evidently for the use of small pieces of artillery in the defence of the Castle, should it be necessary. Two of these are at each of the three exposed angles of this tower, and others command the approach to the gatehouse. A brick vaulting, of a plain character, originally spanned the gateway entrance similar to that still to be seen in several of the adjacent rooms, and a vaulted recess in the curtain wall to the left of the entrance, whose outer wall has been broken away, is worthy of notice, because its use is not evident. Such was the character of the western façade of Kirby Muxloe Castle, forming one side of a quadrangle, the others being composed of strong and lofty walls, relieved and strengthened by towers at the angles and in the centres of each wall; that in the northern one having formed an internal feature, so as not to interfere with the external run of the wall to which it is attached, but those in the eastern and southern sides project beyond the walls with which they are incorporated, and appear to have been of an oblong plan, as was the south-eastern angle tower; but the north-western one consisted apparently of a square tower to which were attached two smaller flanking towers, or turrets, as far as we can judge from the evidence of the remaining foundations.

The next stage was

MARKET BOSWORTH.

The church was visited, and it was briefly described by Mr. E. Roberts, F.S.A.; at the hall (by invitation of Sir A. B. C. Dixie, Bart.) the visitors inspected some curious and interesting pictures and fire-arms; all then adjourned to the Dixie Arms Hotel, where upwards of two hundred ladies and gentlemen partook of luncheon.

Shortly before three o'clock the bugle summoned all to the carriages, which proceeded to Ambian Hill, overlooking the Battle Field. Here the visitors found an immense concourse of people assembled to hear an account of the stirring scene once enacted upon the spot where they were assembled. A large platform had been erected for the members of the different societies present. It was handsomely decorated with appropriate banners and with evergreens. Large flags, too, marked the more specially interesting

historical sites on the field. A silver-gilt *facsimile* of the crown of Richard III. adorned the front of the platform.

Major Wollaston, of Shenton Hall, the President, having read a letter from Earl Howe regretting his inability to be present, said he had been requested to preside there that day, and he had great pleasure in doing so. He had also very great pleasure in welcoming the visitors to that historical hill; and he begged more especially to welcome those gentlemen who were paying them the compliment by coming from a distance to discuss the merits and demerits of all they had to show them. No one had a right to do that better than himself, who was a resident upon the spot and one of the principal proprietors of those celebrated acres. Their friends, whose pilgrimage was already extended, were no doubt anxious to proceed with their peregrinations as soon as possible; he would therefore lose no time in introducing the Rev. Canon Trollope, who intended to fight the battle of Bosworth over again. He would, no doubt, give them a most instructive lecture upon the important and historical events which occurred there some three hundred and seventy-seven years ago. He might say to those gentlemen who came from a distance, that they frequently now saw an exciting scene upon that hill, when it was covered with red coats; but they were not soldiers of the Queen, but soldiers of the chase. He would say that the hill had never witnessed such an array as that he now saw around him,—so many celebrated and learned characters; and certainly the hill had never seen so many soldiers of the Cross since the memorable day of the battle of Bosworth. He begged to call upon the Rev. Prebendary Trollope to come forward to explain to them the important events that occurred there during that action.

The Rev. Prebendary Trollope then read the following Paper:

THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH FIELD.

A fair and an unmistakeably English scene is spread out before us; falling away from the grassy eminence on which we stand, the rich pasture fields below, watered by little streamlets, and intersected by a canal, are dotted with sheep and oxen that are fattening in perfect security, while all else besides speaks of peace and prosperity. In front is a modest farmstead, yonder is the quaint old hall of a country gentleman, and nestling under its beneficial influence is an evidently well-cared-for village, while over both is cast the holy shadow of a house of prayer, as if to bless the hands that raised it to God's glory, as well as those that worship therein. That village is Shenton, with White Moors on the left, just on the other side of the little river Tweed, beyond which is Atherstone: over a curving ridge behind (to the right) is Bosworth, two miles

distant; nearer and more directly in our rear is the village of Sutton Cheney, with that of Stapleton a little more to the south east; below, on the left, is Ambian Wood, and beyond it, another ridge, with a break in the middle, near Dadlington, above which rises the beautiful spire of Stoke Golding; while below is the far-famed Redmoor Plain, about two miles long, one mile wide, and containing some fifteen hundred acres of land.

But still more immediately around us is another, and yet a happier evidence of national tranquility; for I see a mighty mass, composed of the various classes that together constitute England's population, met together for a peaceful purpose, and so entirely destitute of all mutual fear, that the most formidable weapon among them is a walking-stick!

We came not here, however, simply for the purpose of looking upon a fair and peaceful scene of the present day, but to bid it form the groundwork for a picture of the past, and then to people it with the shadows of those whose earthly passions and aspirations have long since ceased to agitate themselves or to trouble others—to summon, as it were, the quiet dead before us, in order that they may rehearse the actions of their lives—to cause them once again to draw their bows, to grasp their bills, to brandish their swords, to charge with their lances, as they did in life, after the manner of the heroes of Val-halla, and then again to allow them to repose amidst those elements from which, in imagination, we have invited them temporarily to arise.

Now then let us ascend the stream of time, back—far back, until we reach a recess partly concealed by parasitical weeds, that hang and wave about it so as partially to hide its true character, and partly obscured by the natural mist that more or less thickly broods over so many portions of the past.

Now let the rushing years roll by like winged wheels that are far swifter than those of any railway trains, for still the comparison of "as quick as thought" holds good; one century has passed away, two, three, and then seventy-seven years, so as to take us back to the date of 1485; and what do I see? Still the main features of the first scene remain the same; there rise the ridges that always partially encircled Redmoor Plain; there is Bosworth spire behind us on the right, and its graceful sister of Stoke Golding on the left, and there is the Plain itself sloping towards Shenton; but an older church and an older hall is there, and not a single fence breaks the wide intervening expanse of pasture land, nor is an ox, or a cow, or a sheep to be seen, for all have been hurried off; the farmstead is gone, and in its place, a little below, is a cottage with a small enclosure belonging to one Hewit, but he and his family have fled; the wood on the left is gone, the canal is gone, but on the other hand the overflowing of a little spring on Ambian hill side forms a minute tributary to the Tweed after it has emerged from a break in

the high ground by Dadlington, and from want of care has been allowed to create a morass below, as indicated by the rank vegetable growth springing from its surface, whose brighter green contrasts favourably with the sun-burnt grass of the plain around it, during the autumnal season.

Such is the scene in thought before me, and now as to the actors that require to be put upon it; they are numerous, for the sloping plain below is filled with thousands of armed men, mounted and on foot. There are nobles and knights, lance-men and archers, pike-men and bill-men, arquebusiers and bombardiers, there are standards and banners, gay surcoats and glittering armour, there is shouting and the sound of trumpets, for a battle is about to commence between a larger and a smaller body of troops; but before the archers discharge their first volleys, let us mark who are the principals in the coming contest, and enquire what they are about to fight for.

On one side is Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, and on the other Richard III.; the one a claimant of the Crown of England, the other its defender.

Henry was the posthumous and only child of Edmund, Earl of Richmond, and Margaret, daughter of John, Duke of Somerset. From his earliest years it was his lot to experience misfortune, captivity, and exile, through his dangerously high position. When only four years of age, Pembroke Castle, one of the strongholds of his uncle Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, and where he was born and spent his first years, was taken by storm; after which event he remained a prisoner in the hands of Lord Herbert, the captor of the castle, for nine years; then, through the temporary defeat of Edward IV., young Richmond regained his freedom, and Pembroke his estates, when both appeared at King Henry's court; on which occasion that monarch is reported to have gazed on Richmond with the greatest interest, and to have expressed his belief that the young lad before him would one day wear the crown of England that had sat so heavily on his own brow. But towards the end of March in the following year, when Edward IV. was advancing triumphantly towards London after his victory at Tewkesbury, Pembroke and his nephew retreated with precipitation to Wales; there Roger Vaughan, the first emissary of the freshly enthroned king, who was sent to seize the two earls at Pembroke, was himself surprised, and executed by the elder earl's order; while a second attempt to capture them proved equally futile, for after Pembroke Castle had been closely beleaguered for eight days by a force under Morgan Thomas, they were rescued from its walls by David Thomas, a brother of Morgan's, who escorted them in safety to Tenby, whence they embarked for France. A storm however arising, the illustrious fugitives were driven upon the shore of Brittany, and they were forced to land at St. Malo,

one of the seaport towns of Francis, Duke of Brittany, who promised to protect them. Hearing of this mortifying escape, Edward IV. immediately endeavoured to persuade the Duke of Brittany to give up the two earls, and especially the younger one, to him, he being now more than ever anxious as to this point, from his well founded jealousy of one who, since the death of the late king and his son Prince Edward, had become the representative of the house of Lancaster; but the duke refused to comply with his request, although on the other hand he took good care to detain the young prince in his custody.

Four years later, viz., in 1474, King Edward again endeavoured to gain possession of Richmond's person by means of bribery and false assurances, when he sent the astute Stillington, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and two others as ambassadors to the court of the Duke of Brittany, with instructions to spare no gold in effecting that object, and to meet any scruples on the duke's part with a false statement that the king of England only desired Richmond's presence in this country for the purpose of ending the rival claims of the houses of York and Lancaster by the marriage of Henry with the Princess Elizabeth of York. In the first instance this mission was successful, the Duke of Brittany commanding the young prince to be conducted to St. Malo, whence he was to embark for England. The result was readily forseen, and the poor victim of Edward's jealousy was compared by Hall "to a sheepe betraied into the teeth and claws of the woolfe," while Richmond himself, knowing full well that death awaited him on the other side of the channel, on the way to the sea was stricken with an attack of fever, the consequence of his fearful anticipations. But a deliverer was at hand in the person of John Chenlet, one of the duke's counsellors, who, most opportunely returning to Brittany at this time, boldly remonstrated with his master, plainly pointed out to him the certain consequences that would follow the English prince's extradition, and put before him the consequent dishonour that would attach to his name as the betrayer of a guest to whom he had promised security. Thus urged, the duke despatched his treasurer, Peter Landois, to St. Malo, with instructions to regain possession of Richmond's person, who, finding his custodians still at that port waiting for a fair wind, contrived to carry off the sick young prince secretly, and placed him in an adjoining sanctuary. Great was the wrath, great were the protestations of the English ambassadors, in reply to which Landois provokingly observed that they ought to have taken better care of their charge; but, in the end, he comforted them with the assurance that Richmond would be watched and prevented from escaping from Brittany as heretofore.

From this time Richmond chiefly resided at the port of Vannes and at Elven Castle in Brittany, and, seeing no hope of earthly promise before him, he seriously thought of taking orders, for

which he began to make preparation by studying the best Latin and French authors; but in 1483 when Edward IV. died, and the Duke of Brittany's engagement had consequently ceased to hold good, Richmond was free; nor was it long before a bright hope was placed before him of being called on to mount the throne of England. Discontented with Richard III., the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Devon, Sir Thomas St. Leger, and others made overtures to Richmond through the medium of Morton, Bishop of Ely, and eventually engaged to supply him with money and troops for the purpose of attacking Richard and hurling him from the throne, on condition that he would promise to marry the Princess Elizabeth, and thus unite the houses of York and Lancaster, which had for so long a time been most disastrously at variance with each other. Accordingly, by the aid of English gold, in two months' time Richmond raised five thousand men in Brittany, and embarked with them from St. Malo in forty ships, October 12th, hoping to arrive in England before the 18th, when the Duke of Buckingham had settled to raise his standard; but, a storm arising, the voyage was so unexpectedly prolonged, that when Richmond reached the southern coast of England, he found Buckingham a fugitive, his Welsh troops dispersed, as well as those that had been raised in Devonshire and Cornwall, while the king's forces swarmed on the coast, so that he was compelled to return to Brittany without attempting to strike a single blow.

Alarmed at this formidable intended attack upon his crown, King Richard then adopted the same course that his predecessor had taken, by endeavouring to bribe the Duke of Brittany to deliver up Richmond into his hands. At that time Landois virtually governed Brittany, in consequence of the duke's weak condition of body and mind; Richard's agents therefore applied to him, and with success, so that the life of Richmond was thus again greatly endangered; but, fortunately for him, the Bishop of Ely having been made acquainted with this project through some of his friends at the English court, instantly sent off Christopher Urswick from Flanders (where the bishop was then residing) to Vannes, for the purpose of warning Richmond of his danger, who adopted the following clever mode of escape from the machinations of his enemies. First he asked permission of the French king to be allowed to enter his territory in safety, together with his friends, which was graciously granted; then, taking advantage of the Duke of Brittany's accidental stay near the French border, on pretence of congratulating him on his returning health, he ostensibly sent the Earl of Pembroke and some of the most important of his adherents towards the Duke's residence, but with secret orders to slip off suddenly into France on their way; next, stating that he was about to pay a visit to a friend in the neighbourhood of Vannes, he also left that town accompanied only by five attendants, so that

no suspicion of his intentions arose; then, entering a wood, where he disguised himself as one of his own servants, and keeping to byways, he succeeded in crossing the border, an hour before his Breton pursuers, and thus disappointed them of their hoped for prey. Proceeding to Angers, he there rejoined Pembroke and his friends, and soon after, by the Duke of Brittany's order the remainder of his followers—three hundred in number—were permitted to join him in France. At Angers he was kindly received by Charles VIII. of France, with whom he went to Montargis, where another most valuable adherent joined him, viz., John, Earl of Oxford, an experienced commander, who had lately escaped from confinement in the castle of Ham,* through the connivance of Sir James Blunt, his custodian, who also himself together with Sir John Fortescue, came with Oxford to Richmond. From Montargis the whole party proceeded to Paris, where many persons, flying from England, offered their services to Richmond, including Richard Fox, afterwards Bishop of Winchester. Then he was strongly urged by his friends in England to make another attempt to secure the English crown for himself, who at the same time supplied him with a large sum of money through the agency of Brereton, a clever follower of his step-father, Lord Stanley. Notwithstanding his desire, however, to comply with such a request, he found considerable difficulty in raising the troops necessary for a fresh invasion; but at length, chiefly through the influence of Anne de Valois, the sister of the King of France, Richmond not only got together two thousand Normans under his command, but obtained a loan from King Charles that was almost as essential as the troops. At this time a fresh move was made by Richard in England, and one that would have been most damaging to Richmond had success attended it. Perceiving the great advantage his rival had in his projected alliance with the Princess Elizabeth—whose right to the throne was stronger than either his or Richmond's,—and seeing clearly enough that his wife was hastening towards the grave through consumption, from which she had long suffered, he formed the resolution of marrying Elizabeth himself, although she was so nearly related to him, or at all events of making both her and her mother, the Queen Dowager, believe that such was his intention. Strange to say, Elizabeth Woodville, dazzled by Richard's fair assurances that he now made to her and to her eldest daughter, and forgetful of the deaths of her passionately loved sons by his hands, ventured out of sanctuary, and again appeared at court with her family, where she fully expected to take a new position

* This castle is situated in the marshes bordering the Somme, in French Flanders. It was built by the Comte de St. Pol in 1470, and still bears his motto "Mon mieux." In later years it has become famous as having been the prison of Prince Jules de Polignac, and other ministers of Charles X., and still more recently from the imprisonment there of the present Emperor of the French, after his reverse at Boulogne in 1840.

before long as the queen mother of Richard's second wife. Hence she wrote to her son, the Marquis of Dorset, then a refugee in France, urging him to desert Richmond's cause, and to resort to her at the English court. In accordance with her instructions Dorset attempted to fly from Paris towards Flanders, and great was the alarm amongst Richmond's adherents when this surprising fact became known, because, should he reach England, being fully acquainted with all their designs, they consequently could scarcely expect success; therefore, by the French king's authority, an armed party was sent after the flying marquis under the command of Humphrey Cheny, who caught him near Compiegne, and compelled him to return with them to Paris, where he was thenceforth carefully watched and detained.

The next incident connected with the history of the period was the siege of Ham Castle, Oxford's late prison, and where the garrison had declared for Richmond. This stronghold Richard determined to recover, accordingly he sent out a large force from Calais for that purpose; but the garrison, although weak, stoutly resisted, and upon application for aid to Richmond, he sent Oxford with some troops to their assistance; when Thomas Brandon by his order entered the castle so as to reinforce the garrison, and subsequently obtained terms for all who composed it, whereby they were allowed to retire honourably with their baggage to Paris, and thus to augment Richmond's little army that he was preparing.

Encouraged by this successful recovery of Ham Castle, and deceived by the false news that the French king was tired of Richmond's fruitless applications to him for assistance, King Richard recalled his fleet from active service, and dismissed the greater part of his forces, simply bidding his subjects on the coast, and especially the Welsh, to keep a good look-out seawards, and to announce any alarm of invasion by means of lines of beacon-lights duly prepared.

In the mean time the cause of Dorset's intended evasion became known to Richmond, and had hastened his hostile preparations, so that advancing, by Rouen, to the mouth of the Seine, he had already begun to collect a little fleet there, when again the great necessity of speed on his part became still more apparent, for on the coast he heard of Queen Anne's death and of Richard's intention of marrying the Princess Elizabeth at once. Fully expecting, therefore, that he would thus irretrievably lose his own hoped-for bride, and concluding that he was consequently at liberty to strengthen his own cause by forming a new matrimonial alliance, he sent messengers to Sir Walter Herbert, a man of great influence in Wales, proposing to marry his sister, Katherine Herbert; and also to the Earl of Northumberland, who had married another sister, Maud, for whom Richmond had conceived a tender attachment when resident in Wales during his youth. At this critical moment

Morgan of Kidwelly,* although Attorney General to Richard III., deserted him, and hastened over to Harfleur from Wales for the purpose of informing Richmond that Rhys ap Thomas† and John

* Morgan of Kidwelly, of Motlysgomb—now called Muddlescombe—near Kidwelly, was a student at one of the English legal Inns, who from his talent as a lawyer acquired the favour and patronage of Richard III., that king having made him Attorney General, granted him the Stewardship of all the lordships in the duchies of Lancaster and Dorset, and bestowed several manors upon him; yet he traitorously absconded to the Earl of Richmond when he was preparing for his invasion of England, brought him the encouraging news referred to in the text, and advised him to make for Milford Haven as his landing place. Afterwards he was made High Steward of Pembroke and of the three Commots of Kidwelly, and was also knighted by Henry VII., in return for his services, yet he was probably one of those whom that sagacious prince simply rewarded for his adhesion to himself, without placing any confidence in them as the betrayers of King Richard. His arms were, *Argent, a Lion sable, rampant, gardant, armed and langued gules.*

† Rhys ap Thomas was one of the most influential personages of his period in South Wales. He was lord of Carew, Llansadurn, Cilsant, Emlyn, Narberth Llangybi, Weobly, Llandeinor, Nant-y-glo, Kidwelly, and Abermarlais. Through his mother, a daughter of Sir John Griffith, he was distantly related to Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, both being descended from one ancestor, Edugvoid, Vychan; and through his wife Eva, daughter and heiress of Henry ap Gwilym, of Court Henry, he obtained a great increase to his large patrimonial possessions. He was Constable and Lieutenant of Brecknock, Chamberlain of Caermarthen and Cardigan, Seneschal and Chancellor of Haverfordwest, Ross and Bualt, and Justiciary of South Wales. Afterwards, through Henry the Seventh's favour, he was made Governor of all Wales, a Knight Banneret, a Knight of the Garter, and a Privy Councillor. He continued to enjoy the royal confidence in the reign of Henry VIII, and died in 1527, aged 76. He, together with his wife, were buried in the priory church at Caermarthen; but when that religious house was destroyed, the remains of Sir Rhys and his lady were removed to St. Peter's church in the same town, and a monument, constructed with portions of the two originally placed over their remains, was erected over their second grave. Sir Rhys is now represented by his lineal descendant, Lord Dynevor, whose family name of Rice is derived from his above-named noted ancestor. Sir Rhys's principal residence was at Abermarlais, a grand old mansion built of brick with stone facings, and famed for its great hall panelled with dark oak. It also contained a chapel adorned with painted glass, some of which is said now to be at Jesus College, Oxford; and its stabling, forming a vast court yard, was on a magnificent scale. Unfortunately all these were swept away by the late Admiral Sir Thomas Foley, after he had bought the estate, for the purpose of erecting a poor modern residence on the site of the great Rhys's grandest mansion. The Garter plate of Sir Rhys ap Thomas is still remaining in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. It is on the Sovereign's side, and in the eighteenth stall from that of the queen. His arms were, Argent, a chevron sable, between three ravens proper.

In common with so many others, Sir Rhys was certainly a traitor towards his sovereign, and Richmond had reason to doubt him as well as Richard. From distrust of his intentions when Richmond's invasion was expected, the king compelled Rhys to renew his oath of allegiance to him, and demanded that his young son should be delivered up to him as a hostage; but, disconcerted at this precautionary and evidently suspicious move on the king's part, Rhys was ready to listen to the appeals made on Richmond's behalf by the Bishop of St. David's and the Abbot of Talley. His adhesion to the earl followed, previous to Buckingham's invasion; and although greatly alarmed at the failure of that enterprise, he continued firm in his determination, and wrote offering his services to Richmond through the medium of Morgan of Kidwelly. According to some, Rhys met Richmond at Milford Haven at the head of two thousand men, and then marched separately by Caermarthen and Brecknock to Shrewsbury, the appointed rendezvous; but probably like the Stanleys, Rhys for a time, from prudential motives, kept apart

Savage* were ready to assist him, that Reginald Bray† had raised some means for the maintenance of his troops, and urged him finally to embark instantly. Richmond had but two thousand men with him—chiefly Normans, whose quality was considered doubtful, and a few pieces of artillery, the gift of the French king, according to the evidence of Philip de Commines; yet seeing the necessity for an immediate attempt on the crown of England, he set sail from Harfleur, Sunday, July 31st, 1485, and with the aid of a fair wind, arrived at Milford Haven on the 6th of August, without opposition. Thence he advanced to Dell, and the following day to Haverford-west, ten miles further inland, where he was joyfully welcomed. There he received both bad and good news, for a false report was spread that Rhys ap Thomas and John Savage had joined the king, with all their men, instead of keeping to their promise to espouse his cause; but on the other hand, one Arnold Butler,‡ came to him with an assurance that the people of Pembroke, under the earl, his uncle, were prepared to fight under his banner. On his way to Cardigan, another false alarm was spread that Sir Walter Herbert was at hand with a large force from Caermarthen, and with hostile intentions; but this was found to be without foundation, and instead of experiencing opposition, his force was increased by small bodies of recruits under two Welsh chiefs, Richard Griffith§ and John Morgan. From Cardigan‖ Richmond

from Richmond, and hence even then some doubt of his intentions may have been entertained by Richmond's followers as well as by himself.

Having very shortly before protested to King Richard that any foe attempting to land in Wales should only cross it over his own body, when Rhys had changed his intentions, he is traditionally reported to have ensconced himself beneath a bridge when Richmond was passing over it, on his way towards Bosworth, for the purpose of casting a sadly tattered veil over the reproachful promptings of his conscience. See *Lewis Glyn Clothi, Pt.* 1, *p.* 163*: and Do. Historical Sketch, Pt.* 2, *pp.* 30, 31, 32, *also Roscoe's Wanderings through South Wales,—pp.* 185, 215, 216.

* John Savage, of Clifton, Cheshire, was nephew to Thomas Lord Stanley, and his brother Sir William. In return for his services on Bosworth Field, he received the manor of Shepeshed, and the estates of Sir Francis Lovel, besides being made a Knight of the Garter by Henry VII. He was killed at the siege of Boulogne in 1492.

† Sir Reginald Bray was made a Knight Bannaret of the Garter, and of the Bath, by Henry VII.; he bore as his device *a crown in a thorn bush*, in reference to his discovery of Richard's crown after the death of that king. He was fully as much distinguished for his skill as an architect as for his valour in war; St. George's Chapel, Windsor, the beautiful priory church of Little Malvern, and perhaps Henry the Seventh's Chapel at Westminster having been erected under his auspices. He died August 15th, 1503.

‡ Arnold Butler, of Johnston, Pembrokeshire, was an experienced soldier, sprung from a branch of the Butlers of Dunraven, in Glamorganshire, whose pedigree is given in the *Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol.* 1, *p.* 132. His arms were *Azure, on a fess argent, between three covered cups, or, a Cornish chough proper.*

§ Richard Griffith, or Rhys ap Meredydd, was afterwards honoured with the guardianship of one of the three principal standards displayed by Richmond at the Battle of Bosworth Field. *Heraldic Visitations of Wales, vol.* 2, *p.* 142: *Note by Sir S. R. Meyrick.*

‖ On his march from Milford Haven, Richmond was gladly and bountifully entertained by Dafydd ap Jeuan at Lhoyn Dafydd in the parish of Llandyssilio Gogo,

sent off letters to his mother and to his principal friends, such as the Lord Stanley* and his brother Sir William,† Gilbert Talbot.‡ and others, informing them that he had determined to cross the Severn at Shrewsbury. There he begged them to meet him; and

Cardiganshire. Remembering this, Henry VII., after he had mounted the throne by that title, sent a handsome present to his former Welsh entertainer. This consisted of a Hyrlas, or drinking horn, mounted in silver, and supported by a dragon and a collared greyhound, the then royal supporters, standing on a mound; between these apparently, was a shield bearing the royal arms. During the civil wars this interesting relic was given to Richard, second Earl of Carbery, the then military commander of the district, by whom it was taken to Golden Grove, Caermarthenshire, where it still remains in possession of the Earl of Cawdor. The horn stands about nine inches high, and is eighteen inches long; the horn itself has been renewed, but the silver mound and supporters are original. This Hyrlas has been engraved as a frontispiece to the *Heraldic Visitations of Wales and parts of the Marches*, published by the Welsh MSS. Society.

* Thomas Lord Stanley was son of Thomas the first Lord, and grandson of Sir John Stanley, to whom Henry IV. granted the government of the Isle of Man. He was a faithful subject of Edward IV. and desired to be true to his young son and successor, whence he nearly lost his life in the Tower when Hastings fell, whom he had previously urged to fly. After Richard III. had usurped the throne, fearing lest Lord Stanley's son should raise an insurrection if his father remained in captivity, that king soon released Stanley from prison, and sought to win him by making him a Knight of the Garter, and bestowing upon him the high offices of Lord Steward of the Household, and Constable of England, in right of which last office he bore a mace before Richard at his coronation. As, however, he had married for his second wife Margaret, the mother of Henry, Earl of Richmond, when Richmond became a competitor for the crown, Lord Stanley was naturally looked upon with the greatest suspicion; when, therefore, he desired to retire from Court, his eldest son, George Lord Strange, was detained as a hostage; and as his sympathy was with Richmond, when summoned to attend the king at Nottingham with all his forces, he pleaded sickness as an excuse for his non-appearance there. Eventually he started from Latham Castle with five thousand men, and marching through Newcastle-under-Lyne to Leicester, joined Richmond at Atherstone, whence, after a consultation, he preceded him to Bosworth Field, and mainly contributed to the subsequent signal victory there, with his own hand placing a crown upon his son-in-law's head, and being the first to salute him as King Henry the Seventh. In return for such great services he was created Earl of Derby, and the office of Constable of England was conferred on him for life.

† Sir William Stanley of Holt Castle, in Denbighshire, and of Ridley, in Cheshire, was brother of the above Thomas Lord Stanley. On the accession of Richard III. he was appointed Justice of North Wales, in the hope of securing his adherence to the usurper; but when Richmond had landed, Sir William having raised some forces in North Wales, brought them, together with the flower of Cheshire, from Holt by Northwick and Stone to Stafford, where upon joining Richmond, that prince is reported to have said, "I am more glade of thee then all the gold of Chrystentye." *(Harl. MSS. 542, fol. 84.)* After the Battle of Bosworth he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer by Henry VII., but eventually, having been suspected of favouring Perkin Warbeck's conspiracy, he was executed; his great wealth, that was thereupon confiscated, having deepened the king's desire that he should die, notwithstanding the value of Sir William's past services.

‡ Sir Gilbert Talbot was the third son of John, second Earl of Shrewsbury. He was Sheriff of Shropshire at the time of Richmond's invasion, and guardian of his young nephew, the Earl of Shrewsbury, at the head of whose retainers, amounting to two thousand men, he joined Richmond at Stafford. He had the command of Richmond's right wing at Bosworth, and to him the heroic young Earl of Surrey delivered up his sword. He was badly wounded in the fight, but survived it and was made a Privy Councillor and a Knight of the Bath, by Henry VII. From him are descended the Earls of Shrewsbury and Earls Talbot.

then, having passed Newtown and Welshpool,* just before he reached Shrewsbury two days later, Rhys ap Thomas, with his force, joined him, instead of resisting him, on condition that he, Thomas, should be eventually rewarded with the governorship of all Wales.

At Shrewsbury, Richmond was at first denied admittance by Thomas Mitton,† the chief bailiff of the town, so that he had to pass the night at a neighbouring village called Forton; but the following morning, after an assurance from him that he intended no hurt to the town or its inhabitants, the gates were opened to him. Here the messengers that he had sent to certain of his friends returned with a considerable sum of money for his use, and with many promises of support. As he advanced, his prospects continued to brighten, for, after he had encamped the following night near Newport, Gilbert Talbot, a knight of very great renown, and then sheriff of Shropshire, joined him there with upwards of two thousand men, the retainers of his young ward and nephew, the Earl of Shrewsbury. So again, when he arrived at Stafford, Sir William Stanley came to him, and after a private interview that important personage returned for the present to the forces he had raised. The next night Richmond encamped without the walls of Litchfield,‡ and the following morning was permitted to enter the town, when he was very favourably received by its inhabitants. Lord Stanley, at the head of five thousand men, had only quitted Litchfield three days previously, but after the interview Richmond had had with his brother Sir William, this movement was probably fully understood. The next march was to Tamworth, during which Richmond's army was recruited by several persons of note, who, deserting from a portion of the royal army at

* When Richmond's army halted for the night here, he is reported traditionally to have slept at Dôl Arddun, a gentleman's seat near Welshpool. *Lewis Glyn Cothi, Pt.* 1, *p.* 35.

† Thomas Mytton's character is a proof that meanness of the most pitiable description existed in the 15th, as well as in other centuries, Phillips quoting the following details of his conduct as the civic guardian of Shrewsbury, when Richmond demanded admittance into that town. "Maistre Mytton the head Bayley of Shrewsbury, a stoute royste gentelman, sayd, he knew no Kynge but only Kynge Richard, whose lyffetenaunt he and his fellowes were, and before he should enter there, he should goe over hys belly, meaning thereby, that he would be slayne to the grounde, and so to run over hym before he entered, and that he protestyd vehemently uppon the oathe he had tacken; and so the sayd Earle returnyd with hys companye backe againe to a vylledge called Forton, 3 myles and a halfe from Shrosberie, where he lay that night; and in the mornyng followyng, there came Embassadores to speak with the Baylyff, requesting to passe quyetlye, and that the Earle theyre maister dyd not meane to hurt the towne, nor none thereyn, but to go to try hys ryght; and that he promysed farther, that he would save hys othe, and hym and his fellows harmlys. Upon thys they entered, and the sayd Mytton lay alonge the grounde wyth hys belly uppwards, and soe the saide Earle stepped over hym, and saved hys othe."

‡ "Unto Lychefild they ryde; a harrot of armes came to number the company that was with the knyght; it was a goodly syght; gonnes in Lychfyld craked; glad was all the chevalry that was on Henry's party." *Harl. MSS.* 542, *fol.* 34.

Stony Stratford under the command of Sir Robert Brakenbury, offered their services to Richmond; among these were Sir Walter Hungerford and Sir Thomas Bouchier. On this day, August 18th, having temporarily left his army, probably for the purpose of having a private interview with some doubtful adherents, he was overtaken by the shades of night before he could rejoin his troops, and losing his way was forced to pass the night at a little village near Tamworth, and only rejoined his army on the following morning, when he found that his absence had caused the greatest alarm. On the 19th Richmond went forward privately to Atherstone, where he expected to have an interview with the Stanleys, whose respective armies were assembled close by. Several knights then came and offered their services to Richmond, each with a retinue, of whom Sir John Savage, Sir Brian Sandford, and Sir Simon Digby were the chief.

Richmond took up his quarters at the Three Tuns, in Atherstone, a hostelry that still exists, and on the following day, the 20th, he held a most important council with the Stanleys in a small field adjoining Mr. Dugdale's park, now the property of Charles Holte Bracebridge, Esq., called the Hall Closes,* when their mutual plan of future co-operation was doubtless arranged. In the course of the day, Richmond's army arrived at Atherstone, and was encamped in a field near the church—called from this circumstance *Royal Mead* in after days, a term which has now been corrupted into "Race Meadow,"—while the troops under the Stanleys marched towards the future battle-field; Lord Stanley by way of Lindley, Higham, and Stoke Golding to a spot on an eminence beyond it called Gamble's close, Sir William, through Shenton, to a position half a mile on the other side of Ambian hill. On the 21st, after having heard Mass in the adjacent priory†

* No more convenient spot could have been chosen for that purpose, these closes constituting what was formerly a retired valley about 600 yards from the Watling Street, that runs through the town of Atherstone, and is sheltered by red sandstone hills that are still shaded by some of the oaks formerly constituting a portion of Arden Forest; it is also well supplied with water issuing from a spring, and also by a little brook. Here the interview between Richmond and the Stanleys took place, referred to in one of the *Harl. MSS. (No.* 542, *p.* 31*)*: "There Lord Stanley lay in the dale with trumpets and a goodly company—there they abode all that night. Upon Sunday they heard Mass, and in a fair field took their way. The vanward Lord Stanley had, Sir William the rere, his son Edward in a wing. Then came Prince Henry; it was a goodly sight to see the meeting of the Lord and the King (upon a bay courser was the King) a little before night."—Holinshed adds the following particulars of this important interview, when speaking of Richmond, saying, "He privilie departed again from his Hoste to the town of Atherstone where the Lord Stanly and Sir William his brother were abiding.—There the Earl came first to his father in law in a little close, and there saluted him and Sir William his brother, and after diverse friendly embracings each reavised of the state of the other, and suddenly were surprised with great joy, comfort, and hope of fortunate success; and afterwards they consulted together how to give battle to King Richard if he would abide, whom they knew not to be far off with a large hoste."

† This was the church of the St. Austin Heremites of a priory founded in the

church, Richmond left Atherstone, proceeded under the guidance of John Hardwick,* (the ancestor of John Burton the historian,) along the old Roman Watling Street, and thence diverging northwards at Fen Lane, reached Whitemoors, adjoining Redmoor, in the course of the day. That spot lies a little to the south of Shenton, and on the edge of the Tweed, which in part served to defend his position. The king's army was now plainly seen, and had it not been Sunday the impending engagement would probably have occurred on that day; but as it was, both armies remained tranquil. When night drew on, Sir Simon Digby, at the peril of his life, ventured into Richard's camp without detection, and brought back word that the king would certainly give battle on the following morning.

Having brought one of the commanders of the forthcoming battle upon the field, it will now be well to revert to the history of the other, before the engagement begins.

Richard III. was the fourth and youngest son of Richard, Duke of York, by Cicely, daughter of Ralph Nevil, Earl of Westmorland, whose mother was Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt, the fourth son of Edward III.

He was born at Fotheringay Castle, October 2nd, 1452, and at the early age of seven years became a prisoner at Ludlow Castle

49th Edward III. by Ralph, Lord Basset, of Drayton, who endowed it with twelve acres of land. That nobleman also bequeathed a legacy of 500 marks for the completion of the priory buildings, by his will, dated Sept. 2nd, 1383. At the Dissolution, Henry VIII. granted the site of the priory and its belongings to Henry Cartwright, to be held by the 30th part of a knight's fee. He sold it to a person of the name of Hill, and subsequently it was purchased by Sir John Repington, Kt., who built "a fair brick residence" on the priory site, and died in 1625.

The nave of the priory church constitutes the present parochial one, but the choir was long ago converted into a Grammar School House, which is partitioned off from the church by a brick divisional wall. As it was there that Henry VII. attended Mass previous to what may be most aptly termed his "crowning victory," and as this feature most assuredly ought to be restored to its original use in connexion with the adjacent church, it is to be hoped that the time is not distant when so desirable an object will be attained.

* John Hardwick, or Herdwick, was descended from William Herdwick of Herdwick, Warwickshire, who, through his marriage with Isabella, daughter and coheiress of Walter de Rodvile in 1215, acquired possession of the lordship of Lindley. He was a man of small stature, but of great valour, courage, and strength. The day before the battle of Bosworth he came to Richmond, when at the "Three Tuns," Atherstone, together with a few well mounted retainers, and offered his services to the earl. These were thankfully accepted, and Hardwick became the guide of the invading army towards Redmore plain. By his advice the "White Moors" was selected as the best spot for the encampment of the army; from his knowledge of the country he secured for Richmond the defensive advantage of a morass on his right flank when about to engage with King Richard, and he also recommended such a disposition of the troops as placed the sun behind their backs. In 1485 John Hardwick was appointed steward of Nuneaton Priory, within whose church he was buried after his death that occurred April 13th, 1510. He left only daughters, the eldest of whom by his second wife married James Burton, the great grandfather of William Burton, the historian. *Nichol's History of Leicestershire, vol. 4. p. 646.*

after the battle of Blorcheath, and a refugee after that of Wakefield, in which his father and his brother Rutland fell. From this position he was extricated through the success of his elder brother's arms, when he mounted the throne of England as Edward IV. From him also he received many honours, titles and estates, in return for which favours he exhibited much gratitude, and never was known to swerve in the slightest degree from the loyalty and fidelity that were due from him towards his royal brother so long as that brother lived. Deaf to the great Earl of Warwick's persuasions, which proved sufficient to seduce Clarence from his allegiance, Richard preferred to fly across Lincolnshire with King Edward, when fortune drove him from his throne; and together did the brothers seek safety in Holland; together also did they return, March 14th, 1471, when King Edward regained his power. Then followed the first battle in which Richard was engaged—viz., that of Barnet, when, although only nineteen years old, he was entrusted with the command of the right wing of the royal army, and bore himself most nobly, repeatedly charging against the foe, and fighting for six hours until he had lost both of his attendant esquires, and a complete victory was secured. But perhaps Richard distinguished himself still more in his second battle, fought only three weeks later at Tewkesbury, where, as commander of the van, he fell upon the enemy with such fury that a complete rout ensued, entirely owing to Richard's valour. Two incidents also in his early life appear to point to his affection as a brother, and his piety as a son, for he it was who escorted his sister Margaret when on her way to Holland as the affianced bride of the Duke of Burgundy's son; and who, after having reverently taken down the heads of his father and brother from one of the gateways of York, and disinterred their bodies at Pontefract, followed their remains to Fotheringay, where they were re-interred in a more costly manner.

In 1473, with the consent of the king, Richard married Ann Nevile, the younger daughter of the Earl of Warwick. Two years later he was summoned from his residence in Yorkshire by the king, for the purpose of aiding him in an invasion of France; and when, instead of fighting, the disgraceful treaty of Picquigny was made, Richard not only declined to accept any French gold, as all the other English commanders did, but reproached the king, asking, "what the world would think of the wisdom and courage of England, that could cross the sea with such an army and return without drawing a sword." Yet, true to his brother still, when a war with Scotland became necessary, he assumed the command, captured Berwick, and entered Edinburgh in triumph, where he remained until all his demands were satisfied.

On the other hand, Richard has been accused of many crimes; but the number of these has, I feel convinced, been greatly exaggerated.

First, of the slaughter of the young Prince of Wales, when taken prisoner at Tewkesbury. It is, however, doubtful whether King Henry's son was not slain during the flight from the field that was lost to his house; but should another and a darker version of this story be true, viz., that he was slain in cold blood in the presence of King Edward when a defenceless prisoner, still, Richard is not to be selected for special obloquy, for under the worst circumstances, he only took a part in that act in common with King Edward, Clarence, the Marquis of Dorset, Lord Hastings, and others,—while this transaction occurred at a time when war to the knife was raging between the Houses of York and Lancaster.

The next evil act attributed to Richard is the violent death of Henry VI., when a captive in the Tower, immediately after the return of Edward IV. to London, May 21, 1471. There is indeed scarcely any doubt but that that unfortunate prince was privately executed for the purpose of giving stability to his successor's position; but it was only in after years, when Richard himself had left the stage of life, and it was found profitable by Tudor writers to blacken his character far beyond its real darkness, that King Henry's death was attributed to Richard; and as such an act could only have been serviceable to the king, is it not far more likely that the royal prisoner in the Tower died by the order of the fierce and jealous King Edward, rather than by the hand of his brother Gloucester?

The death of Clarence has also been very commonly laid to Richard's charge; but while no substantial evidence is forthcoming against him on that head, it is most unlikely that he should have been thus guilty, even had he been thirsting like a tiger for his blood. His contention with Clarence as to the respective rights of their sister wives had been settled; and at that time, with such a number of heirs to the crown taking precedence of himself, he could scarcely have anticipated the possibility of its possession; in addition to which there is reason to believe that he was absent from court when Clarence was arrested, judged, and executed; but supposing that he had desired his brother's death above all things, when that brother was condemned to execution, and both Houses of Parliament were pressing for the speedy execution of his sentence, it is not credible that Richard should have so needlessly interposed, and supplied the cask of Malmsey wine, vulgarly supposed to have been the instrument of Clarence's death.

After King Edward's demise, however, a great change took place in Richard's character, and the shadow of heinous crimes at once began to lower around him, resulting from an ardent and uncontrollable desire to possess himself of the crown.

At first, perhaps, he intended to be faithful to his dying brother's charge, when he appointed him as the guardian of his two tenderly beloved young sons. But soon, from fear of the Queen Dowager

and her party, should she possess increased power as the queen mother of a boy king, and with whom he was already at enmity, it was possibly in self defence that he seized the young king and some of the queen's principal relations and supporters. Successful in this movement, Richard's treason certainly quickly followed.

Practically he saw only two boys between himself and the possession of the crown: for, although his elder brother Clarence had left two children, they also were not only young but attainted; and although King Edward had left other children, they were daughters —also of tender age—while the disastrous results of a minor's rule in England during the fifteenth century were fully anticipated ; so that Richard was assured of the general preference that would be given to himself, as a brave and wise prince of mature age, if the crown *could* be transferred to him. At once was the office of Protector gladly bestowed upon him ; but there were great difficulties in taking the next step that his ambition led him to crave. Some he gained as supporters of his project by bribery, such as Buckingham ; some, too noble to be thus perverted, he sent to the block, such as Hastings, as well as others too nearly allied to his nephews, the young princes, by the natural ties of blood, to have any hope of,— such as Dorset, Rivers, and Grey. He condescended also to the meanest deeds in the prosecution of his design; inducing Sir Edmund Shaw, the Mayor of London, to address the people in his behalf, and two popular preachers, Dr. John Shaw, the mayor's brother, and the Provincial of the Augustine Friars, to prostitute their sacred office by scandalizing the character of his own mother in sermons at St. Paul's Cross, with the hope that he might be regarded, by some at least, as the legitimate heir as well as claimant of the throne; so also when the mayor, the Duke of Buckingham, and others came to Baynard's Castle, offering him the crown, he affected surprise, and spoke of the great love he bore towards his late brother and his sons, before he accepted the much coveted and preconcerted proposal. Then shortly followed the commission of that dreadful deed on his part that has branded his name with indelible infamy, namely, the private execution of those innocent boys that had been so confidingly committed to his care by their dying father, and his own brother, who had protected him when young himself, and had throughout his life ever been a most liberal benefactor to him. Thenceforth Richard's life was a troubled one, and the crown that he had purchased so dearly brought no joy with it, but only a weary load of care.

True, he was able to repress Buckingham's revolt; true, he saw a rival candidate for the throne—in the person of Richmond— fearful, in the first instance, of landing on the shore of England, or of attempting to strike a single blow for his cause; but what was Richard's position when preparations for a second attempt at invasion were in progress, during the eventful year 1485? At that

time he had lost his only son, in whom all the hope of the future stability of his throne was centred, and whose premature death he mourned over with the violence that characterised all his feelings. Shortly after, his wife faded away, through the sure although gradual attacks of consumption, with whom, notwithstanding the evil reports of his enemies, there is good reason to suppose he lived on the most affectionate terms; and thus, alone as it were, he was forced to nominate the young Earl of Warwick, the son of his deceased elder brother Clarence as his heir, probably for the purpose of defending himself against the claims of the Earl of Richmond.

Then, when he looked forth from his palace upon his kingdom, he no longer saw his throne supported by Buckingham, and other great nobles of the realm, while of those who nominally still stood by him, he had strong reasons to doubt; the nation too—now that it had calmly deliberated upon that fearful act enacted in the Tower —for the most part condemned him for the cruel murder of his nephews. Yet his was a spirit that could not be quelled, especially as he had so readily suppressed Buckingham's revolt, and had already once repelled Richmond from the shore of his kingdom; while still more recently he had recovered Ham Castle, on the other side of the channel, from Richmond's adherents. He was therefore unduly confident in his own strength, should further attacks be made upon his throne.

Early in December, 1484, the king was aware of the continuance of Richmond's intention to contest with him for the crown, from the evidence of the following mandate sent to the Mayor of Windsor by Richard, towards the close of that year:

"R. Rex. By the King.

"Trusty and well beloved we greet you well. And for as much as wee be credibly informed that our rebells and tratours now confedered wth our antient enemies of France, by many and sundry wayes conspire and study the meanes to ye subversion of this our realme, and of unity amongst our subjects; as in sending writings by seditious persons wh^{ch} counterfeyt and contrive false invencons, tydings and rumours to the intent to provoke and stirre discord and division betwixt us and our Llds which be as faithfully disposed as any subjects can suffice: Wee therefore will and comande you streighthly, that in eschewing of the inconvenients abovesaid, you put you in uttermost devoire, if any such rumours or writings come amongst you, to search and enquire of the first shewers and utterers therefore: and y^{em} that ye shall soe find ye doe co'mitt unto sure warde; and after proceed to theyr sharp punishment, in example and feare of all other, not failing hereof in any wise as ye intend to please us, and will answere unto us at your perills. Yeoven under our signett, at our palace of Westm^{r} ye 6 day of December."

Perhaps the above mandate was issued by the king in consequence of the arrival in England of the following manifesto:

"*Henry E. of Rich^{d}. before he was k. to his freinds here in Eng^{d}. from beyond the seas,*" *&c.*

"R^{t} trusty wor'p'll and hon'ble good freinds and our allys, I greet you well. Being given to understand your good devoir and intent to advance me to the furtherance of my rightful claime, due and lineall inheritance of ye crowne; and for ye just depriving of that homicide and unnatural tyrant wh^{ch} now unjustly bears dominion over you: I give you to understand y^{t} noe Christian heart can be more full of ioye and gladness than ye heart of me yor poore exiled ffreind, who will, upon the instance of your sure advertise what powers ye make ready, and what captains and leaders you gett to conduct, be prepared to pass over ye sea wth such forces as my ffreindes here are preparing for me. And if I have such good speed and success as I wish according to your desire, I shall ever be most forward to remember, and wholly to requite, this your great and most lovinge kindness in my just quarrell. Yeoven under our signett H R. "I pray you give credence to ye messenger of y^{t} he shall impart to you."

In June, Richard having become assured of Richmond's purpose of making a descent upon England, issued an address to his people from Westminster, June 23rd, 1485, in which he calls upon his subjects to resist Henry Tudor, and his attainted traitors; whom he pronounces murderers, adulterers, extortioners, rebels to God, honour, and nature; who obey his ancient enemy the French king; and under Henry, their bastard leader, begotten in double adultery, intend to enter his kingdom, and by conquest despoil his subjects of life, liberty, and goods; to destroy all the honourable blood in the realm, and seize their possessions; therefore he advises every man to lift up his hand against them. He tells them the French king lends assistance in consideration of Normandy, Anjou, Mayne, Gascoign, Guynes, Cassell, Hams, Callis, and the Marches being given up, and the arms of France for ever being dissevered from those of England; and that Henry had already bestowed upon the enemies of the kingdom, the bishopricks and spiritual dignities, with the duchies, earldoms, baronies, and inheritances of knights, esquires, and gentlemen; that the old English laws are to be abolished, and those of a tyrant established among the people. That Henry Tudor and his wicked followers will commit the most horrid murders, slaughters, and robberies, that ever were heard of in a Christian country; every true Englishman, therefore, is commanded to furnish himself with arms, to oppose the rebels, in defence of his wife, children, and possessions; and the king himself will courageously expose his most royal person to every labour and hazard, to subdue their enemies, and comfort his faithful subjects; therefore he calls forth every man to defend his king in battle.—*(Sir John Fenn's Paston Letters.)*

But beyond the issue of the first of these proclamations, Richard for some time made no extraordinary preparations of a defensive

character, thinking that a good look out on the Welsh coast, with the provision of a series of beacons as signal lights, would be sufficient, in addition to the services of Sir Walter Herbert and Rhys ap Thomas, in whom he thought he might confide in the first instance, should an invasion really take place. Just before Easter, however, he heard of the desertion of certain persons, which convinced him that Richmond was about to make a move; he, therefore, then ordered his navy to protect the south coast; he called upon all men liable to serve in arms to join his standard at different points; and, as he knew not whence the attack might come, he arranged a system of bringing intelligence from the coast generally by means of mounted messengers stationed twenty miles apart, and finally left his metropolis for the purpose of taking up a more central position, moving first to Coventry, then to Kenilworth, and finally to Nottingham, where he awaited the expected attack.

At length the news reached him that Richmond had landed at Milford Haven; but hearing that he had only brought with him a small ill-equipped force, and still trusting to Herbert and Thomas for the defence of Wales, he rejoiced to think that his enemy was now apparently within his grasp; nevertheless, he commanded the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Surrey, Lord Lovell, Lord Stanley and his brother Sir William, the Earl of Northumberland, Sir Robert Brackenbury, Sir Thomas Bouchier, Sir Walter Hungerford, and others, to join him immediately with their respective forces; and now, also, he especially appealed to the citizens of York* for their aid. And there was occasion—for quickly Richard heard his coming foe had, most unexpectedly to himself, reached Shrewsbury,—an event that enraged him bitterly against those who he deemed ought to have prevented this. Next, the king heard through his scouts that the invaders had reached Litchfield, and now, being at the head of twelve thousand men, he determined to advance towards the enemy. Accordingly, he marched to Leicester on Tuesday, August 16th, and arrived there on the evening of that day, sleeping, as tradition has always reported, at a then fine old hostelry, called the "White Boar."†

* Richard's appeal to the citizens of York was heartily answered, as appears from the records of that city, for on the 8th of July an order was made "for the citizens to be defencibly arrayed;" on the 16th of August, "that John Spon sergeant to the mace, should ride to Nottingham to the King's Grace, to understand his pleasure in sending up any of his subjects within the city of York, for the subduing of his enemies lately arrived in the parts of Wales, or otherwise to be disposed at his most high pleasure." And on the 19th of the same month 400 men defensibly arrayed, John Hastings gentleman of the mace being captain, were ordered, in all haste possible, to depart towards the King's Grace, for the subduing of his enemies. *Drake's History of York, p.* 20.

† This house stood nearly opposite the old free school in the High Cross Street, Leicester, and was commonly called "King Richard's house," whose cognizance it originally bore; but after the defeat of Bosworth Field, that sign, according to local historians, was torn down by the populace in the exuberence of their new born loyalty towards his victorious successor, and thenceforth the house bore the name of

His entry into Leicester must have been an imposing sight. His first division marched five abreast, with many a banner flying; then followed a long array of baggage waggons, and probably some pieces of artillery, termed *bombards*;* then the cavalry in two

"The Blue Boar," until the commencement of the last century. Most unfortunately, this very interesting relic of mediæval Leicester, so intimately connected with the name of Richard III., was pulled down in the month of March, 1836. Happily, however, a drawing of it had been previously taken by Mr. John Flower, and its exact dimensions secured by Mr. Henry Goddard, whence a representation of that portion of the original edifice which remained to the present century was made with the most accurate fidelity. From this a restored view of this portion of the edifice, as it appeared in the reign of Richard III., has been prepared, on a reduced scale, in anastatic ink by Mr. Joseph Goddard, who in conjunction with his father has kindly presented it to the Associated Societies, accompanied by the following notes extracted from a Paper read by Mr. Goddard, senior, before the British Archæological Association, in reference to The Blue Boar or King Richard's House at Leicester:—

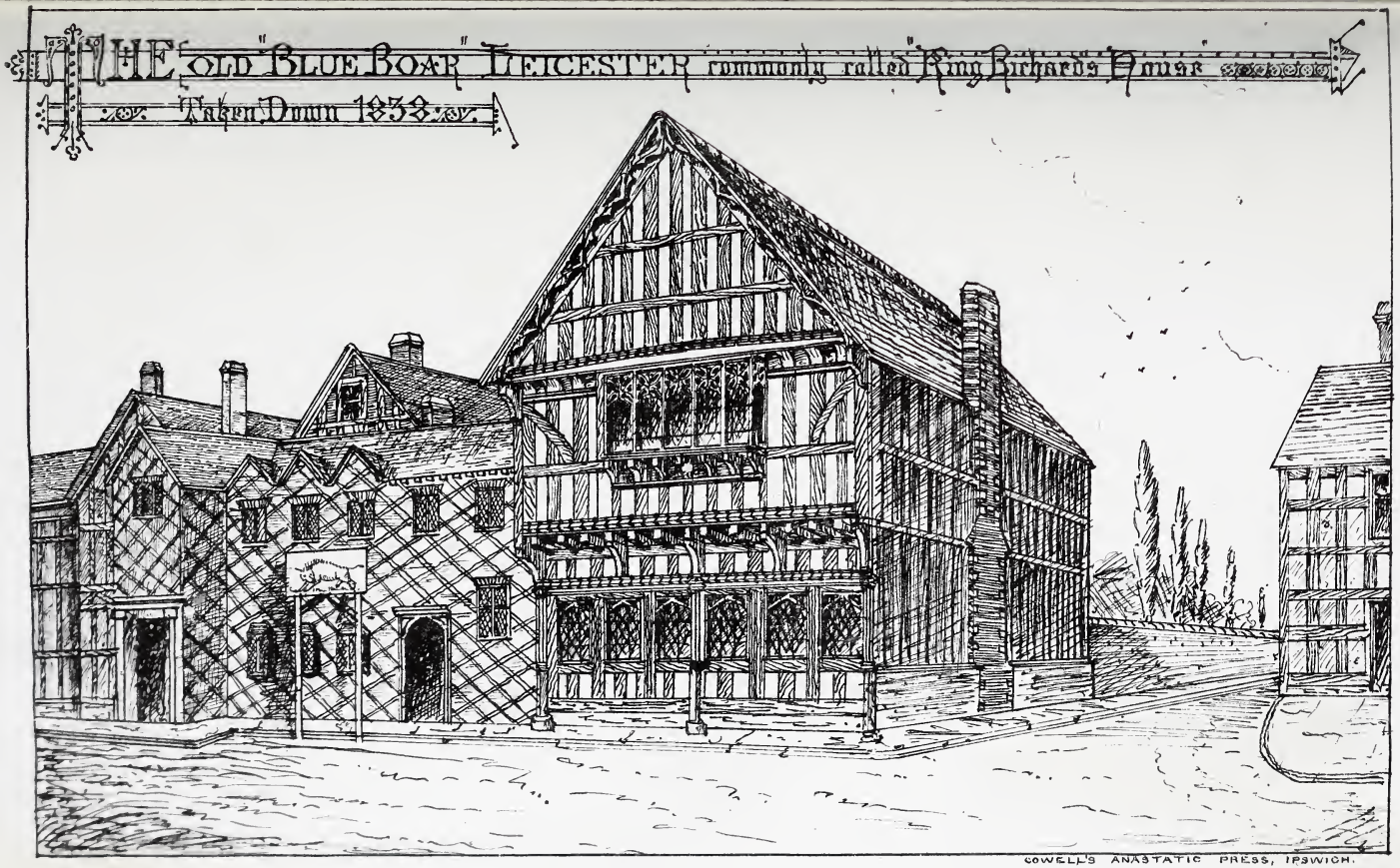
"The original structure had two wings and a centre, the centre receding from the street four or five yards. This centre probably had in the middle a gable, with a wide gateway beneath, leading to the rear of the premises and to passages behind the front rooms. Like the old Inns in the metropolis, the Blue Boar no doubt had open galleries behind, approached by outside staircases and communicating with the several chambers. The principal apartments were in the wings; of these it was the northern one which was standing in 1836, and which is represented in our illustration.

"This wing was of two storeys. The front was about twenty-five feet wide and thirty-seven feet high to the apex of the gable. It was a half timbered house of oak and plaster intermixed, built upon a foundation of stone and brick. The lower storey contained one large room about forty-one feet long and twenty-four feet wide within. The front was covered over in great part with a brick wall, on the removal of which the original timbers of the windows (as shewn in the drawing) were exposed. Here there were two wide windows of three lights each, divided by wooden uprights within the framework, and this was coved on the front edges and grooved to receive the glazing. The timbers of the house were placed upon blocks of granite, to prevent the damp from rising and decaying them, and were as perfect as when first erected. There was originally no doorway in the front, but traces of an original window of four lights (of similar character to those already described) remained in the south wall near the western extremity. In addition to this window was a door near to it, which had evidently communicated with a corridor or passage in the rear of the main building. On the north side of this lower apartment was a fire-place, having stone moulded jambs, and a moulded projection over the mantel.

"The second floor overhung the lower storey, the ends of the floor timbers being shown, and the principal ones were supported by brackets. The beam lying over these ends was moulded and embattled, as seen in the drawing. The principal feature there was a projecting window of five lights, with moulded mullions and tracery of the fourteenth century. This window was also supported on brackets. In the interior the second storey was much like the lower one. The floor was of brick, and here was a fire-place similar to the one below, with the exception that it had three courses of brickwork between the plinth of the stone jambs and the floor, to serve as a hearth.

"Above this, externally, was an embattled tie beam and moulding, sustaining a gable, having an ornamental barge-board cusped and moulded. The roof of the second storey was open to the ridge; the whole of the timbers were framed and pinned together with oak pins. Not a nail or piece of iron of any description was used in connection with the building, but the timbers were framed and scarfed together in the most ingenious manner without such aids. All the principal beams and other parts were decorated with painted scroll-work in black, red, and yellow. In addition to the window looking into the street, there was another like that in the lower storey already described. The entrance was by a door entering from a gallery. This door was of a rude description, ledged and composed of three boards, lapping one over the other, and was fastened by a wooden latch moved through a finger-hole cut in the door, and by a bolt of wood below the latch. The roof was covered with strong Swithland slates."

* Originally these resembled mortars in form, and discharged large balls of



COWELL'S ANASTATIC PRESS, IPSWICH.

divisions, at whose head appeared the king, in the same suit of burnished steel armour, partly gilt, that he had worn at the battle of Tewkesbury; while his helmet was surmounted by a representation of the royal diadem, and the grand white steed that bore him, covered with gorgeous housings, was the admiration of all beholders.

Something of his appearance and that of his queen will be gathered from the illustration opposite, which has been most accurately copied in small from the *Rous Roll*, a contemporary document, by the Rev. Charles Terrot, to whom the Associated Societies have been previously indebted for similar artistic illustrations.*

On Wednesday, the 17th, Richard left Leicester in the same stately manner that he had entered it, for the purpose of meeting Richmond, who was then advancing towards Atherstone. In the midst of a long cavalcade, he marched along the High Street, and then issuing out of the west gate, and passing over Bow Bridge, he proceeded to Elmsthorpe, where his army encamped for the night; when some of his officers slept in the church, not out of irreverence, but from want of accommodation elsewhere. Richard had expected

stone, but towards the close of the fifteenth century they had become elongated, were mounted on wheeled carriages, and discharged iron balls. M. Viollet le Duc, in his *Dictionnaire Raisonné de l'Architecture, tome* 1, *p.* 406, says, "Ce ne fut guère que sous Charles VII. et Louis XI. que les pièces de siége, aussi bien que celles de campagnes, furent montées sur roues; on continua cependant d'employer les bombardes (grosses pièces, sortes de mortiers à lancer des boulets de pierre d'un fort diamètre) jusque pendant les premières années du XVIe siècle."

Artillery of various kinds was ordered to be in readiness for the Scotch campaign made at the close of Edward the Fourth's reign, which was put under the command of Richard, Duke of Gloucester; a warrant to that effect from the king to William Temple commanding the recipient to provide whatever was necessary for "Bumbards canones, culverynes, fowelers, serpentynes, et alios canones quoscumque ac pulveres sulphureos, saltpetre, petras, ferrum, plumbum, et omnimodas alias stuffuras, pro eisdem canonibus necessarias et opportunas." *(Fœdera, fol.* 148.)

We are certain that Richmond had bombards with him at Bosworth Field, from the evidence of Philip de Commines, who expressly relates that the King of France, previous to the earl's invasion, presented him with "une bonne somme d'argent, et quelques pièces d'artillerie," *(livre 5me, fol.* 233*)*; and from the act of attainder passed against King Richard's upholders by his successor in the first year of his reign, we gather what was the character of the "*other means of attack*" referred to below,—used no doubt on both sides—wherein Henry's opponents were accused of opposing him "with banners spred, mightyly armed and defended with all manner of armes, as gunnes, bowes, arrowes, speres, gleves, axes, and all other manner of articles apt or needful to gef and cause mightie battaille agen our said soverayne." The form of field guns of the period is given in the *Etudes sur l'Artillerie, vol.* 3, *plates* 26 *and* 27, published by order of the present Emperor of the French; and the contemporary guns there given, taken from Charles the Bold by the Swiss, are still preserved as trophies of their victory over that duke, at Nancy. The form of such guns dated 1473, is given in a MS. Roy. 18 Ed. V., f. 34, preserved in the British Museum, also in the *Dictionnaire Raisonné de l'Architecture, tome* 1, quoted above. Some balls discharged from such pieces of artillery during Bosworth fight are preserved in the Leicester Museum.

* And obligingly reproduced in Anastatic Ink for these transactions by Mr. Bull, a member of this Society.

to meet the enemy at Hinckley; but finding he had not as yet advanced so far eastward, on the following day, Thursday 18th, the king marched to Stapleton, and encamped on a spot a little to the south of the village, called the Bradshaws, where he ordered intrenchments to be thrown up for the protection of his army.

Here Richard remained for two days and three nights awaiting the approach of Richmond, during which time he no doubt made a careful survey of the surrounding locality, and especially of such a considerable eminence as Ambian hill, only two miles distant from his camp. On Sunday, 21st, hearing that the enemy had arrived at Atherstone the previous day, the king commanded his army to advance to a better position, which he had probably selected a day or two before, whereon to make ready for the battle that was now imminent. That Sunday night was doubtless one of unrest for Richard, yet not from the cause so wonderfully described by Shakespeare. At this time indeed the king had become habitually restless, whether awake or asleep exhibiting signs of a disturbed mind and a highly nervous temperament; and no doubt such sleep as he had during the last night he was destined to witness on earth was disturbed by agitating dreams, although not of that array of reproachful spirits who with threatening gestures and fearful maledictions pronounced the coming doom of their former murderer, until it passed away with the last minutes of night and was mingled with the cold grey clouds of coming dawn,—but with unmeaning "dreams of divers images like terrible devils, which pulled and haled him, not suffering him to take any quiet or rest;" he, according to his own testimony, having seen dreadful visions that night, and imagined that he was surrounded by a multitude of demons. Nor was this surprising, for if Richard had any taint of superstition that occasionally checked the boldness of his nature, this alone might have given a dark colour to his sleeping thoughts. According to Burton's quaint phraseology, Richard had been entertained with two unwelcome accidents, the former being a prophecy to this effect, that if he should meet his adversaries in a place surrounded by "tons" he should suffer greatly; the latter, that if he should lodge at a place whose name began and ended with the syllable "an," he should lose his life, which was bad hearing for him, when he was encamped on an eminence then called "Anbian hill." Again, when passing out of Leicester, a blind wheelwright pronounced an oracular sentence indicative of the coming loss of Richard's crown and life; and then, when he accidentally struck his heel against a stone projecting from the parapet of Bow Bridge, a spiteful old lady declared still more plainly in what condition he would next enter Leicester, namely, with his head beneath his horse's back. But supposing that he had heard none of those dark vaticinations, which is very probable, still there was much cause for anxiety on his part as to the

stability of his throne, and his own personal safety. It was natural that Pembroke should rise in favour of his nephew Richmond, but at this time many in whom Richard had reason to suppose he might confide had turned against him; first, Rhys ap Thomas had done so, then Gilbert Talbot, next Hungerford and Bouchier, still later, Savage, Sandford, Cheney, and Digby; moreover the king had strong doubts as to Northumberland's fidelity, and had but little hope of the Stanleys' assistance, although Lord Strange, son of the elder brother, was a hostage within his own stern grip; therefore with open traitors in arms threatening him, and with secret ones around him so truly indicated by the anonymous announcement that had been affixed to Norfolk's tent that night, there was abundant cause for anxiety on Richard's part when reposing, as well as when he had risen from his troubled couch before it was light. Then, suffering in mind, and soured by the revolt of those on whom he had conferred great benefits, when he issued out of his tent attended by Lord Lovel, Sir William Catesby,* and Sir Richard Ratcliffe, finding a sentinel slumbering at his post, he savagely stabbed him, observing "that as he found him asleep, he left him as he found him."

Then the light of the 22nd began to dawn, on which day both commanders had determined to fight for the Crown of England; and the clank of arms was heard on Ambian hill and the plain below.

The royal camp was soon astir and busied with preparations for the coming conflict; the tents were left standing, and their late occupants, after having been duly formed in battle array, were ordered to advance down a portion of Ambian hill, while two anxious messengers speeded towards Lord Stanley's camp, both begging him to join their respective commanders instantly; to Richmond's envoy Stanley replied most enigmatically that "he would join him at supper time;" to Richard's Pursuivant—after he had added this fearful threat to the end of his invitation, that if he did not accept it, his son Lord Strange would forfeit his life—Stanley observed, "that it was inconvenient to him to join the king then, and begged that officer to tell his master that he, Lord Stanley, had other sons besides his elder one!"† Enraged at

* Catesby was a clever but unscrupulous lawyer. He owed his elevation to Hastings, through whom he acquired great influence in Leicestershire; yet when he was employed by the Protector to win over that really noble lord, and found that his loyalty towards the late king's sons could not be shaken, he most basely recommended his kind patron's destruction, and hoped to be rewarded with a portion of his confiscated estates in return for this act of treachery. So again, when Sir Robert Brakenbury refused to become the murderer of the young princes committed to his custody as Lieutenant of the Tower, Catesby, together with Sir Richard Ratcliffe, procured a less scrupulous agent who was ready to fulfil King Richard's wicked will, in the person of Sir James Tyrel. He was beheaded at Leicester after Bosworth Fight by order of Henry VII.

† While Lord Stanley was forming, the king sent Sir Robert Brakenbury with

such a reply, which too clearly pointed to Stanley's intentions, Richard ordered the instant execution of the young Lord Strange, which would certainly have taken place but for the earnest interposition of Lord Ferrers, through whose counsel it was deferred.

On the other hand Richmond in a complete suit of armour, excepting his helmet, advanced on a fine bay charger for the purpose of addressing his army. His trust, he said, was in the God of justice and of battles, at the same time reminding his followers that victory depended on valour, not on numbers, and he concluded by bidding them advance in the name of God and St. George. Gradually marching forward from the Tweed towards Richard, who, from the superiority of his position awaited his enemy's attack, he reached Ambian Leys, and there drew up his army in battle array, his right flank being protected by a morass, with the sun behind his troops, that gave them an additional advantage. In the centre of the first line were the Norman archers, under Barnard, mingled with Welch and English, all placed under the supreme command of John, Earl of Oxford; the right wing was composed of Shropshire men under Gilbert Talbot, and the left of Cheshire men, in white hoods, commanded by Sir John Savage. The second line, consisting chiefly of Welsh cavalry, was commanded by the veteran Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, with Richmond as commander-in-chief, whose principal standards were St. George for England, a red dragon for Cadwallader, and another bearing the figure of a dun cow, in allusion to the celebrated Guy, Earl of Warwick.* When Richmond had reached this point, King Richard

this singular but dreadful message; "My Lord, the king salutes you, and commands your immediate attendance with your bands, or your son shall instantly die." About the same time Sir Reginald Bray arrived from Henry, pressing Lord Stanley to join him. He replied to Brakenbury, "If the king stains his honour with the blood of my son, I have more; but why should he suffer? I have not lifted a hand against him. I will come at a convenient time."—*Hutton, pp.* 90, 91.

* These standards were of a long pennon shape, having the red cross of St. George on a white ground nearest to the staff; next to this cross appeared the distinguishing emblem of each standard.

On Richmond's first banner was a representation of St. George, the Patron Saint of England, on a red ground. On his second, a red dragon on a white and green sarcenet ground, powdered irregularly with red and white roses, across the smaller end of which ran diagonally two labels bearing the motto of *Dieu et mon droit.* This device was adopted to please the Welsh, as having been that of Cadwallader, from whom Richmond claimed descent, and in whose person the Welsh were led to believe that a British king would again reign in England according to certain prophecies of Merlin. On the third standard was the figure of a dun cow, on a material called tartan, or tartere, This had no connexion with what is now called tartan, but was a rich silk, originally imported from Asia Minor, that was formerly called Tartary. In the *Inventaire de l'Argenterie,* made by Estienne de la Fontaine in 1353, the following item appears,—"pour deux pièces de tartaire, l'une vert, et l'autre vermeille, prisiées 15 escuz la pièce." Chaucer also in his *Floure and the Leaf,* alludes to this stuff:

> "On every trump hanging a brode bannere
> Of fine *tartarium,* full richly bete,
> Every trumpet his lordis armis bere."

advanced a little from his superior position, and the battle was ready to begin, the first lines of both armies being now within bow-shot of each other.

We may suppose that the care-worn visage of Richard would brighten when he looked upon his formidable array of sixteen thousand men, and knew that Richmond could not muster half as many; especially when mounting a little hillock, he addressed his troops, or more probably his officers, at a spot still called "Dickon's nook," lying a little to the south east of the higher portion of Ambian-hill, and concluded his speech with these words, "Advance forth your standards, and every one give but one sure stroke, and surely the journey is yours. And as for me, I assure you this day I will triumph for victory, or suffer death for immortal fame." His first line, under the command of Norfolk and Surrey, was extended to an immense length in a wedge shape on the lower portion of Ambian-hill and the adjoining ridge. In the fore-front of this first line were 1240 archers.* Behind was a formidable square of pike-men, billmen, arquebusiers, and bombardiers,—the last to work the few pieces of artillery brought into the field. These constituted the main body of the royal army under the king's especial command, with wings formed of cavalry, also drawn up in squares, the right wing being under the Earl of Northumberland, the left under Sir Robert Brakenbury. Now all is ready for Richmond's reception before he has had time to reach the king's position above, and Richard is longing for the commencement of the inevitable battle, for he is yet hopeful of victory, although he knows that some have already deserted him, and that many others with him are not trustworthy; still he trusts that the Stanleys may continue to remain neuter, and, above all, his undaunted spirit relies on the oft tried valour and skill of his own right arm for the defence of his throne, so that his appearance was never more striking; his originally handsome face is indeed now marred by an evil expression, the result of violence, mistrust, and disap-

Richmond had a twofold reason for adopting a dun cow as a device, first in allusion to his descent from the legendary Guy, Earl of Warwick, through the Beauchamps and the Beauforts, which Guy was the renowned victor of

> "A monstrous wyld and cruell beast
> Called the Dun Cow of Dunsmore Heath,"—

and secondly out of compliment to his step-father, Thomas Lord Stanley, whose first wife was Eleanor Neville, sister to the great Earl of Warwick.

After Richmond's victory at Bosworth, and his entry into London, we are told that "with great pompe and triumphe he roade through the cytie to the cathedrale churche of St. Paule, wher he offered his iij. standardes."—*Lansdowne MS.* 225, *f.* 433; *and Hall's Chronicle.*

* Richard's van is said to have consisted of 1200 bowmen, flanked by 200 cuirassiers; his second line of 100 bill-men, empaled with 2000 pikemen; his rear of 2000 men, flanked by a body of 1500 cavalry on either side, "cast into square maniples." Another writer says, "Kyng Richard had vij score sargeants that were cheyned and lockyed in a row, and as many bumbards, and thousands of morys pyks, haggebushes, &c."—*Harl. MSS.* 542.

pointment, but the slight disfigurement of his person and the difference in the size of his arms cannot be detected through the steel casing that entirely covers him, over which is a surcoat of velvet embroidered with England's bearings on the body, and again on the sleeves; immense gilt coudieres and genouillieres protect his elbows and knees, cuisses and tuilles of plate armour cover the foreparts of his thighs, jambarts his shins, sollerets his feet, gauntlets with deep cuffs his hands, and a bright steel salade enriched with a golden coronet his head.

It is now ten o'clock, and Richmond has slowly advanced his first line up the acclivity until it is almost within bowshot of the royal army, when at Richard's command the trumpets of the royal vanguard sound, directing it to commence the engagement, and the archers with their bows ready bent step forward to meet the enemy. Then a mighty shout arises, the bombards roar, the arquebuses rattle, and the sky is darkened by a cloud of arrows from the king's archers, which is almost simultaneously returned by Oxford's bowmen. At first the discharge is general on either side, but afterwards the air is pierced only by fitful flights until the quivers are exhausted, and blood has begun to flow. Then, with the exciting exhortations of their respective commanders still ringing in their ears, when Norfolk's banner is advanced, followed by a similar move on the part of Oxford, their respective followers fiercely drawing their swords and grasping their pikes and bills, rush towards one another, and a hand and hand encounter ensues. What a din of arms is heard from the clash of so many hostile weapons, and the blows falling thickly upon the armour of the combatants!

When we look again upon the struggle, we see that the first lines of both armies are broken up into groups of eager combatants, swaying backwards and forwards from their first position, and that Oxford's weaker force has become in consequence unduly elongated; this, however, is soon apparent to that experienced commander, who, alarmed at the too widely extended position of his men, by the sound of the trumpet calls upon them to draw in nearer towards their standards, lest any should either be surrounded, or cut off by the enemy. Obedient to the order, Oxford's line becomes again more concentrated, but at the same time is necessarily shortened; yet, strange to say, the prudent movement on Oxford's part instead of encouraging Norfolk, only startles him, so that, suspecting some strategem, he calls in his men, and for awhile there is a pause in the conflict; soon, however, tempted by the superior length as well as strength of his force, returning to the encounter he attempts to wheel round Oxford's right flank, when the contest becomes fiercer than before, and the blood of the fallen tinges the greensward with an unnatural and unwonted stain. Now the two chiefs themselves meet in deadly single

combat, first with their lances, which shiver against one another's armour, then with their swords; when Norfolk wounds Oxford in the left arm, and Oxford, in return, strikes off the visor from Norfolk's helmet, but declines to take further advantage of his kinsman's and former friend's comparatively defenceless condition; nevertheless, the next moment he sees him fall dead at his feet, for an arrow, shot by chance, has penetrated Norfolk's brain. Frantic at his father's fate, young Surrey, emulating the fierce courage of his family cognizance, rushes forward to avenge his noble sire's slaughter, and is supported by Sir William Conyers and Sir Richard Clarendon, but he is overpowered by Sir John Savage and Gilbert Talbot, the leaders of Richmond's wings, and his gallant friends are slain; yet he still fights on awhile, refusing to surrender, and with a last effort strikes off the arm of one who was attempting to lay hands upon him, but at length he is forced to offer his sword to Talbot, with a request that he might fall by a noble hand like his, adding that the maxim of the Howard family was to support the crown of England, and that he would fight for it, though it were placed on a hedge-stick.

Previous to this incident Richard's cause appeared to prosper, but now when the battle had raged for an hour, when Norfolk was slain, and Surrey was a prisoner, so that it was high time for the second line of the royal army to advance, instead of doing so, it withdrew at the command of Northumberland, he and his troops continuing to be simply spectators of the combat. Then, still worse, when the Stanleys might certainly have redeemed the fortunes of the day, and the king perceives that Lord Stanley's troops have left their position and are advancing from Dadlington, what next does he behold? Does that noble, upon whom so much now depends, remember the dangerous position of his son? or does he bear in mind his own blood formerly lost in the Tower, and his imprisonment therein, at the Protector's instigation, when his friend Hastings lost his head—and therefore will he support the cause of Richmond? Now he sees that it is "convenient for him to advance," and now he perceives how he may best "sup in safety;" therefore he joins the right of Richmond's army in openly friendly guise, when the cry of "A Stanley! a Stanley!" is heard from that portion of the field, and the hopes of Richmond rise high, while those of the king as suddenly decline. Before the battle some in whom Richard had placed confidence deserted to his advancing enemy; then, a large body of the troops nominally under his command refused to fight for him at a moment of his greatest need; and now Lord Stanley has joined the enemy; so that, in his rage and despair, Richard cries out "Treason! Treason!" Yet, when those who remain faithful to him perceive he will shortly be overpowered, and therefore hurriedly bring up

a fleet horse on which they entreat him to fly,* so far from having desired such an ignominious means of safety, indignantly rejecting the proposal, although some of his subjects have turned traitors, and others will not raise their hands in his behalf, never did his spirit soar higher, and he is prepared to die in defence of that crown which he had bought at so tremendous a price. By blood he had grasped it—the blood of his own royal brother's sons, whom he had sworn to protect—and now he is ready to shed his own in the same cause, for he valued the diadem of England higher than his life; therefore he exclaims, "Bring me my battle-axe, and fix my crown upon my head, for by Him that shaped both sea and land, King of England this day will I die;" adding, "If none will follow me, I will try the cause alone." Nor did he make that appeal in vain, for when, as tradition says, he had quenched his thirst at the well still bearing his name,† he again closed his visor, and galloped forward round his right flank towards the enemy, a train of gallant knights was ready to follow him wheresoever he might lead. His object and his only hope, now, was to encounter Richmond in person, his earnest desire being to fight with him until either victory or death should decide their respective claims; therefore, putting spurs to his famous white charger, and followed by a stream of noble attendants with lance in rest, he rushed like a hungry lion towards the rear of the enemy's left wing, where it had been reported to him that Richmond, attended by his standard-bearer and a few guards, was stationed on a slight eminence. After the king gallop three Knights of the Garter—Francis Viscount Lovel, Walter Lord Ferrers of Chartley, and Sir Richard Ratcliffe; after them hurry Sir Robert Brakenbury, Sir William Catesby, Sir Gervis Clifton, and others, fighting as they charge. Then fell the aged Brakenbury by the hand of Hungerford, who had only a few days before gone over to Richmond; next Clifton, notwithstanding Sir John Byron's attempt to save him, dies. And now a gigantic knight appears in front—Sir John Cheney—but he is swept from off his

* "Then to kyng Richard ther cam a knyght, and sayd, 'I hold it tyme for ye to flye; yonder Stanly his dynts be so sore, agaynst them may no man stand. Her is thy hors for to ryde: an othar day ye may worshipe wyne.' He said, 'Bryng me my battail axe in my hand, and set the coronet of gold on my hed so hye; for by hym that shaped both sea and land, kyng of England this day will I die."—*Harl. MSS.* 542.

† According to an article in the *Cambrian Quarterly Magazine, vol.* 3, *p.* 41, quoted by the Rev. John Jones in his Historical Sketch of the wars between the Roses, and forming a preface to the works of Lewis Glyn Cothi, it was a cup of wine that Richard drank, which seems more probable than that he should have adjourned at such a moment to a spring. "Richard seeing himself betrayed, and that all the Welsh had revolted from him, asked for a goblet of wine; then calling to him Rhys Vychan, one of his squires, drank unto him in these words: 'Here, Vychan, I will drink to thee, the truest Welshman that I ever found in Wales;' and having drunk the wine, he threw the goblet over his head, and made towards his enemies, where he was immediately slain."

horse by Richard's charge; then Sir William Brandon,* in his turn, falls by the king's own hand, as he is in the act of waving Richmond's banner, which the next moment is contemptuously hurled to the ground; and now none interpose between the two candidates for the crown. Can, then, Richmond escape from the heroic arm of Richard, now doubly strengthened by the desperate condition of his cause? With difficulty is the king kept at bay by his opponent's lance, and in another moment will they be engaged hand to hand for life or death; when again the cry of "A Stanley! a Stanley!" pierces the din of the contest, for Sir William Stanley, having at length descended from his position in front of Nether Coton on Richmond's left, and with his 3000 tall men from Denbighshire, having cut off the king's retreat, will soon surround his heroic band; yet in vain does Catesby urge his master to fly, for he is only called a coward in consequence. And now Richard's foes have closed in upon him; now his equally brave standard bearer, Sir Richard Percival, still waves the royal standard behind him, after both his legs have been severed from his body; but then, in another moment, both the king and his standard bearer are down! White Surrey has fallen, and Richard, hacked and pierced by countless weapons, sinks, with his gallant charger, in that death which he so little feared, thus leaving Richmond master of the field. Then what a rush ensues on the part of those around the royal corpse, all being anxious to secure a fragment of his brilliant panoply; in a minute, therefore, is his surcoat torn from his person; each piece of armour is savagely hacked from his limbs; there is a fierce struggle for his battered and crown-encircled helmet, which nought but the death of the wearer enabled them to handle with impunity; there is a tearing to pieces of the royal clothing; and then, stripped of all, the naked body of the last Plantagenet king of England is contemptuously cast aside amidst a heap of slain.

The death of Richard at once brought the battle to a close about mid-day, after it had lasted for two hours. The royal army had been called out by force to fight, and some, like Norfolk and Surrey, thus summoned, had come with hearty loyalty to contend for the king, and if need be die for him; but many more came with an unfavourable feeling towards Richard's person, because his name was blackened by the foul imputation of murder, a stain which had gradually deepened as the whole truth of that horrible deed became known, so that he was already condemned by the

* Sir William Brandon was son of Sir William Brandon the elder, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Wingfield. With his brother Thomas he took a part in the Duke of Buckingham's insurrection, after which both brothers fled to Brittany. Upon his accession, Richmond made Thomas Brandon an esquire of the body guard, and as such he carried the king's shield before him at the battle of Stoke. He died 1. H. VIII., leaving a son afterwards created Viscount Lisle, and eventually Duke of Suffolk.

generality of his subjects, and they consequently cared not to risk their lives in his defence. Of this class was Northumberland, while another party, such as the Stanleys, waited only for a safe time to betray him. No sooner, therefore, was Richard in the dust, than the right wing of the royal army retreated towards the main line, and Northumberland, who was in command, ordered all to throw down their arms, so as to convince the Earl of Richmond that now being freed from his allegiance to the late king, no further opposition would be offered on his part. The left wing next fell back, and finally the centre did the same, until their retreat merged into a flight, when the dispersed army broke and fled into different directions, but for the most part towards the gap in the rising ground to the left by Dadlington, and were pursued with considerable slaughter by Richmond, Lord Stanley, and the cavalry, while Sir William Stanley stopped upon the field. From 2000 to 3000 men fell on Richard's side, on Richmond's 1000, but the victory of the latter was most decisive, for Richard's body was left in Hewit's Piece,* his truest supporters were either dead, were prisoners, or had fled. Richmond had chased the flying remnant of the royal army towards the south,† and now that he is perfectly assured of his success, he falls upon his knees in grateful prayer; then he is conducted to an eminence on the west of Stoke by the Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Oxford, and Lord Stanley, where he publicly thanked his followers for the immense service they had just rendered him, praised their bravery, and promised them due rewards, while finally his most ardent desire is gratified, for the crown is forthcoming. Snatched from the fallen Richard's helm by one of the many plunderers of his person, who had secreted it under a thorn bush, it fell in the hands of Sir Reginald Bray, and he was thus at this opportune time enabled to produce it. Then Lord Stanley as the Earl of Richmond's stepfather, and as one to whom he was chiefly indebted for his triumph, was selected to place that regal emblem upon the brows of him who was thenceforth to reign as Henry the Seventh,—an act that has ever since given the name of *Crown Hill*‡ to the eminence on which it occurred. This was followed by a mighty shout of "Long live King Henry," that echoed far away over the plain below, announcing that another king had begun to reign in

* Hewit's Close, or Piece, is on the slope of Ambian Hill, between the brick and tile works of Major Wollaston and the little farm-house above the Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal bridge.

† As Sir William Stanley's charge was a flank one, in combination with Sir John Savage's troops, and "their dints were so hard," it was this that impelled the disheartened and broken royal army to fly towards the opposite flank, instead of backwards up the Ambian Hill.

‡ Crown Hill. Richmond's crowning no doubt took place upon a nodule of volcanic rock, now grassed over, and situated near some poplars, a little to the south of Stoke Golding.

England, and that the Plantagenet had been exchanged for the Tudor dynasty; finally, a solemn "Te Deum" was sung as a sanctification of the new king's rural coronation, that anticipated a more formal ceremonial at Westminster and another at York, when, instead of Richard's battered circlet, St. Edward's crown was placed upon his head. But soon another deeper and more solemn strain arose on Redmoor Plain at the burial of the dead; for although the bodies of the nobles and knights that fell in battle, such as those of John Duke of Norfolk, Walter Lord Ferrers, Lord Zouch, Sir Richard Ratcliffe, Sir William Conyers, Sir Richard Clarendon, Sir Robert Brakenbury, and Sir Gervis Clifton, were carried for more honourable interment elsewhere, on the field itself were roughly consigned to mother earth, near where they fell, their followers who lost their lives in this last battle between the representatives of the houses of York and Lancaster; some pits* being dug for the reception of the dead where the battle chiefly raged, but others on the line of the broken royal army's retreat towards Dadlington, where many more fell before the pursuing and victorious cavalry of the future king. One more duty remained to be performed, before Henry left the scene of his signal success, and that was to reward on the spot some of those who had served him so well. Now, therefore, he knights Gilbert Talbot, Rhys ap Thomas, John Mortimer, William Willoughby, Robert Poynts, Humphry Stanley, John Tuberville, Hugh Pershall, Richard Edgecomb, John Bicknell, Edmund Carew, and others, reserving greater rewards for the commanders of his army, and lesser ones for inferior officers; and then at the head of his triumphant troops he moves forward to Leicester, where he is

* The site of these pits is still evident from the hollows above them, formed by the sinking of the earth over those receptacles of the dead. Other fugitives found a grave just outside the town of Atherstone, by the road side, where their remains having been discovered in 1766, caused the spot to be called the "Bloody Bank." With them was found a gilt spur engraved with a white rose pattern, and a beautifully wrought key, on which is wrought the cipher of RR. These relics were secured by Mr. Bracebridge, of Atherstone Hall, and are now in the possession of his descendant, Charles Holt Bracebridge, Esquire, of the same place. All the human remains however that have from time to time been revealed near Bosworth Field are not necessarily connected with the contest that took place there in 1485; for instance, about the year 1812, when the late Mr. Morris of Sutton Fields was making a drain some eight feet deep in what he called the "Rough Meadow," he found a large deposit of human and horse bones, covered over with oak boughs before the earth was cast in over them. With these was found the head of a halbert, and near the thigh bone of one of the skeletons a quantity of common nuts, some with and some without their husks, supposed to have been gathered by a soldier who lived not to eat them.

As nuts are not ripe in August, nor at the commencement of September, when from the alteration of style the battle of Bosworth Field was fought, from this circumstance alone we imagine Mr. Morris disturbed the remains of some who fell in a skirmish that occurred during the Carolian civil war, which was fought in the month of October on the site of the more ancient battle.

An eye witness of this discovery who is still living, viz., Mr. John Deacon of Barton Fabis, obligingly imparted the above-named fact.

received with shouts of applause, and again proclaimed King of England by the title of Henry the Seventh. Again also Richard's person is seen in Leicester. It was necessary to convince all men that he was dead; search, therefore, was made after his body, and it was found; then covered with blood as it was, hacked, pierced, and mangled, it was cast across the back of a horse, belonging to a Pursuivant, called "Blanch Sanglier," of Richard's own creating, whose device—the "Silver Boar"—was displayed upon his tabard; then, with the head of the body dangling on one side of the horse and the feet on the other, it was borne perfectly naked into that part of Leicester termed the Newarke, and deposited in the Collegiate Church there; afterwards it was exposed to public view upon a table, either there or in the Town Hall, near the church of St. Nicholas, for two days, in order that it might be fully identified. Subsequently the Grey Friars or Augustine Canons of Leicester, in compassion for fallen majesty, and for one who had been a benefactor to monastic orders, begged for the body, and after offering up masses for the soul of the late king, buried it decently within the walls of their church St. Mary de Pre; and when those fierce feelings that for a time raged in the hearts of both of the competitors for the crown had subsided, in the one case by the hand of death, in the other through the calming spirit of unopposed stability, the new king—perhaps from pity for his predecessor's tragical end, combined with some feeling of sympathy for one with whom he was personally connected—ordered a stately tomb of alabaster, adorned with variegated marbles, and surmounted by King Richard's effigy to be erected. But again those poor relics of a fallen king were disturbed when the frenzy that prevailed in connection with the dissolution of monastic houses led to the destruction of that tomb; and the bones of King Richard, snatched irreverently from their stony shroud, were cast over Bow Bridge into the Soar, so that none can now point to a spot where a single fragment of his mortal remains can be found.

Thus perished the last Plantagenet King of England, and thus Richard III.'s crown was transferred to the house of Tudor.*

* At the commencement of his reign, Henry VIII. felt a desire to commemorate the Battle of Bosworth Field by the erection of a chapel at Dadlington, wherein Masses for the souls of the slain might be offered up by a stipendiary priest, as appears from the following extract from *State Letters and Papers, vol.* 1, *No.* 1848. In 1511 the Archbishop of Canterbury, then Chancellor, by writ from the king dated at Nottingham Castle, Aug. 24th of that year, was ordered "to make out a licence for the churchwardens of the church of Dadlyngton, Co. Leyc., to ask alms for 7 years in the dioceses of Lincoln, Chester, Worcester, and Norwich, towards building a Chapel of St. James, standing on Bosworth Field, and for the stipend of a priest to pray for the souls of the persons slain in the said field." Whether this chapel was to be actually attached to the parish church, or whether it was to be a separate structure, does not appear from the foregoing extract, nor have we any testimony as to whether this movement was attended with success.

At Agincourt Henry V. had worn his crown, or rather its representative, when that emblem of royalty was cleft by a foreign foe; but on Redmoor Plain, near Bosworth, when Richard III. appeared on the field adorned in a similar manner, and Englishmen were arrayed against Englishmen, the blow fell heavier; for then the wearer of the crown lost it, together with his life, and that change took place which is emblematically referred to by several of his successors' devices, when the crown of England, hidden awhile in a thorn bush, after its late wearer had ceased to be tempted or dazzled by such an earthly bauble, was engrafted on that Tudor stock that bore red and white roses issuing from one stem; whence our national diadem has been transmitted to her whose graces are as bright as the choicest of its jewels; and who, although now drooping under a most afflicting domestic calamity, must feel the burthen of her sorrow greatly lightened by the universal sympathy of a loving people, whose firm desire and intention it is to support her crown, and whose fervent prayer is, that she may still long live to wear it.

Sir A. G. Hazlerigg, Bart., proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Trollope for the lucid and interesting description he has just read.

W. U. Heygate, Esq., M.P., seconded the proposition, and in the course of his remarks begged Mr. Trollope's acceptance from the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Societies of the silver-gilt *fac-simile* of Richard the Third's crown then before him, as a memento of his visit to that far famed battle field, so immediately connected with a great turning point in the history of England.

John Lee, Esq., LL.D., F.R.S., F.S.A., President of the British Archæological Association expressed on behalf of himself and of the members of that Association the gratification they derived from their visit to that spot, and their appreciation of the kind and courteous reception they had met with in Leicester.

The bugle's note once more sounded on the battle field, though not for the retreat of men engaged in deadly conflict, but of men who had assembled to refresh the memory of a great crisis in our national history, and to promote social intercourse and kindly feeling between each other. The carriages then made their way to Stoke Golding, where the fine parish church attracted much attention. Its architectural features were thus described by Mr. Trollope:

STOKE GOLDING CHURCH.

This church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is a most attractive structure not only from its commanding site, and its proximity to that far famed battle field on which the Earl of Richmond won for

himself the crown of England, but from the beauty of its own features.

As soon as its exterior catches the eye, most will, I think, be struck by the dignity of its character, and the admirable manner in which the spire rises from its supporting tower.

Originally, a chapelry of the alien Benedictine Priory of Hinckley, attached to the Abbey of Lyra, in Normandy, Stoke Goldenham, or Golding, had become a distinct parish during the reign of Henry VI. The only old proprietor here that we shall care to hear about is Sir Robert de Champaigne, descended from the Counts of Champaigne, whose ancestor came to England with the Conqueror, and who, by his marriage with Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Roger de Stoke, became possessed of a considerable estate at Stoke Golding, tenth Edward III.

Although the fabric is for the most part of the fourteenth century, a small First Pointed window—once an external one, but now in the divisional wall between the chancel and the adjoining chantry,—demonstrates that it had a predecessor. On entering, the twin-like appearance of the two main portions of this church will first be noticed, both being of the same width and length, and neither of them having a chancel arch or screen, so that the nave proper, may not be immediately identified. This was formerly separated from the chancel, first by an arch, and after by a Perpendicular screen of carved oak, from evidences that existed on these points until a late date, the chancel occupying the space of two bays of this portion of the fabric, or one third of its length. The eastern wall is very considerably out of the square, which I cannot account for, as neither of the lateral walls show any signs of having ever sympathised with its inclination.

The east window is a very beautiful one of five lights within an acutely pointed arch, but, unfortunately, the uppermost circlet of its tracery has been robbed of its cusping.

Of the four large windows in the north wall of this church, the second and fourth from the east are alone original ones, the others, of a flamboyant and weaker character, and the small one beyond the north door has been robbed of its tracery. A very high pitched roof at first covered the nave and chancel, as will be clearly seen from its weathering on the eastern face of the tower.

This portion of the fabric may be assigned to the first years of the second quarter of the fourteenth century, viz., 1325 to 1330, but by whom it was erected we know not; we can only suggest therefore that it arose at the expense or through the influence of one of the priors of Hinckley, the then patrons of this church, of whom Henry de Puy was prior in 1319. About thirty or forty years later, a beautiful addition was made to the fabric by Sir Robert de Champaigne, to whom I have already alluded. Above the nave arcade is a Latin inscription asserting that this personage

together with his wife Margaret, the Stoke heiress, built this church in honour of St. Margaret, the virgin, during the reign of Edward I.; but, like many other inscriptions, it is a most erroneous one, because in the first place Sir Robert's marriage did not take place until the reign of Edward III., and it is very evident from the architectural evidence before us that Sir Robert's work consisted only of additions to the church, although they were very considerable ones.

Pulling down the south wall of the nave, he erected an arcade in its place, beyond which he built a chapel as large as the nave itself, forming what we may now term the south aisle, and at the same time he appears to have pulled down the old tower, and to have erected the present very beautiful one in its place. The arcade consists of three pillars, which, together with their responds, support four arches forming the present divisional line between the nave and the Champaigne chapel. This now constitutes a most pleasing feature of the fabric, and from the multiplied members of the pillar shafts together with their numerous fillets, suggest the idea of classical fluting. The windows in the present south wall may have been taken from the nave when the chapel was added to it, as they appear to correspond generally with the earlier ones in the present north wall as to date and character.

In the middle of the south wall of the Champaigne chapel is a recess surmounted by a segmental arch, supposed to mark the burial place of the founder, and towards its original eastern extremity is a piscina supplied with an elongated hood mould.

Lastly, a second chapel was added to the eastern end of the Champaigne one, by whom is not known, when an archway was opened between it and the chancel, when its eastern wall was made to assume the same line as that of the chancel, and the window of Sir Robert Champaigne's chapel was re-erected in a new position parallel with that of the chancel. In this chapel is a double piscina and a bracket that formerly supported a statue of St. Margaret, and which was probably removed to its present situation when this addition was made to the fabric; the figure also of St. Margaret was also formerly displayed in the west window of the tower, as a graceful compliment to the heiress, Margaret Stoke, on the part of her husband.

The font is richly sculptured; on one of its arcaded panels St. Margaret again makes her appearance, with the conquered dragon beneath her feet, into whose mouth she has thrust the end of her cross surmounted staff, while a praying figure kneels before her. On another panel is a figure of St. Catherine, crowned, holding the spiked wheel in her right hand, and a sword in her left. In a third panel a bishop is represented in the act of blessing, with the episcopal mitre on his head and the staff in his left hand, perhaps representing St. Nicholas. On the other panels are shields, one of which bears a chevron between three quatrefoils, but the others are

defaced. Most probably one of them bore "or a fret sable," for Champaigne, as this font appears to be of the same date as the Champaigne chapel. The stem would have been greatly improved by angle shafts supplied with capitals and bases so as to have obviated the crudeness of the design below the bowl.

Externally the outline of the tower and its spire will, I doubt not, be duly admired. To the former an extra amount of support has been wisely given to its western face, but its most beautiful feature is the perforated panelled parapet by which it is surmounted; in two of its quatrefoils are the crowned heads of Edward III. and Queen Phillippa. Formerly pinnacles rose at intervals from the parapet, but these have now disappeared; below is a line of ball flowers and a drop moulding. Proceeding along the south side of the church, its good base moulding, and a perforated parapet similar to that on the tower will be observed. Only the lower portions of the pinnacles by which the buttresses are capped now exist, their tops having been destroyed. Pretty little roundels are carved at the intersection of the principal lines in the tracery of two of the windows in the Champaigne chapel.

At the east end, the flattened gable of the chancel will be seen with regret, as well as its present condition. Whether this portion of the church was shaken out of the perpendicular by the earthquake that occurred in 1580, and when the top of the spire fell to the ground, I know not, but the present mode adopted for carrying off the rain from its roofs may also have injured the stability of the foundations, and cannot but be observed with regret. When the pinnacles here were perfect, and rose like twin guardians on either side of a well-proportioned gable at the end of the chancel, and at the same time gave weight to the buttresses beneath them, the effect produced must have been most pleasing.

On the north side great changes have taken place; three out of the five windows being insertions, and two out of the four buttresses being additions, which last were indeed most necessary to aid in supporting the north wall of the fabric. Over the third buttress from the east, which is an original one, is a trefoil inserted in a rising break of the parapet, for the purpose of indicating the divisional line between the nave and the chancel.

On the churchyard gate are some old iron stanchion heads, perhaps derived from the windows of that beautiful parish church to which it gives access.

EVENING MEETING.

A PUBLIC MEETING was held on the evening of the same day, in the New Music Hall, Leicester,

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF LEICESTER (S. Viccars, Esq.), in the chair.

THE REV. PREBENDARY TROLLOPE repeated his Paper upon the Battle of Bosworth Field.

MR. E. ROBERTS, F.S.A., read the following Paper upon

S. MARTIN'S CHURCH, LEICESTER.

THIS church is said to have been built on the site of a Roman temple, but there is no proof whatever of it as a fact, unless tradition be accepted as such; and as archæologists do not deal in traditions except as poetical adjuncts to their drier works, we must look for other confirmations of the supposition.

It happens that in the church under consideration there is some evidence of a Roman building pre-existing on the spot, and also of its having been appropriated to animal sacrifice, for when, some forty years ago, excavations were being made for the purpose of adding masonry to strengthen the then failing central tower, large quantities of bones and horns of animals were dug out; and although we may, between the suggestions of sacrificial or domestic purposes, be on the *horns* of a dilemma, we may to some extent be relieved from that uncomfortable position by the discovery made last year, when the old tower was taken down. On their digging deeper for the purpose of making the foundations of the new tower, two bases and part of the shaft of some Roman columns were found. I am not informed whether they were *in situ*, but I have looked at them in your excellent Museum, and I think I may safely say that they do not appear to be such as would be used in a slaughter-house; besides, the *abattoirs* would in those days be outside of the town, and it is not unlikely that tradition is somewhat near the truth when it asserts that the church was continued on the site of the former place of worship. And we know that when Christianity had so advanced as not to require its services to be celebrated in caves and secret places (and indeed in all times), sacred spots were used as such from age to age.

It is probable that a Saxon church was first reared, but this can be but mere conjecture. We know, however, from Domesday Book, that there were at least two churches in Leicester at the time of the Conquest; for Hugh de Grentemaisnel was therein described as holding two churches. It will have been remarked by you that the entries in this book are by no means conclusive as to the non-existence of churches:—it frequently happened that

the inference of a church was to be drawn from the mention of a priest; and you also know that constantly where we are sure that churches existed, they are in no way described in Domesday Book.

It is probably a well-founded belief that almost all churches which existed *prior* to the thirteenth century were built on Saxon foundations, and that there were nearly or quite as many in existence before the Conquest as for a century after—always excluding from this statement the monastic churches, which sprang up with such marvellous grandeur and rapidity after the Conquest, they being before that period chiefly colleges of secular clergy.

We still must deal with probabilities for a short time longer, and also in generalities. This much, however, is certain, that the *present* church is of Norman origin, and the last trace remaining of that style is to be found on the north side of the north arcade to the nave. At the eastern end there is a portion of a Norman string, showing the billet very distinctly; and, necessarily, part of the wall in which it is embedded is also Norman. The tower which was recently taken down was of the same date, though (Mr. Brandon says) devoid of any features of architectural interest.

The Norman church most likely consisted of a chancel, nave, and transepts, with a tower at the intersection, and so continued until what is termed the Early English period, that is, the first stage of the system of pointed arch architecture. It was at that time that the aisles, with the necessary arcadings to the nave, were added; and subsequently (in the same period as regards the architecture, though of a later phase of it), at about the latter half of the thirteenth century, the second aisle on the south was added. This is a peculiar feature and deserves notice. There are but few of them in this country, and in the course of my examination of Ottery St. Mary, last year, I had occasion to make some search about them. I did not at that time know of this example, but am happy to have seen it, and to be able to add it to my list. I believe the only specimens are this of St. Martin's; Ottery St. Mary; and Collumpton, Devon; Bloxham, Oxon.; St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford; Higham Ferrars; and Yelvertoft, Northants.; and Yarmouth, Norfolk.*

This and one other appear to have been unknown to Mr. Parker when he wrote his "Glossary." Some of these are on the north side, and some on the south; this of St. Martin's being among the latter. The entire dimensions of the church are about 170 ft. by 90 ft.

There have been still later additions to the church, the most important being the clerestory and the rebuilding of the chancel, which are both of the Perpendicular or latest period of Gothic.

* *Journal of British Archæological Association*, 1862, vol. xix., p. 159.

But from that time till about 1846-7 no considerable changes were made. In those years the present series of works was commenced, and consisted, strictly speaking, rather of reproductions than restorations, the latest work being the erection of a new tower of greater magnificence than anything in the town. And I may here say, that Mr. Brandon, in the true spirit of mediæval times, when he could not by any possibility preserve a structure, adopted something entirely his own, and of such beauty and massiveness that one is tempted to say it is a thing of "wisdom, strength, and beauty." I am informed that, when completed, it will be about 215 ft. in height. I am sorry to hear that funds are not abundant, for I think Leicester will be proud of its work when it is finished.

It would weary you to hear now, without the church before you, a detailed description of the architectural peculiarities of the church, but it may be interesting to mention one or two matters which are perhaps not purely local.

One of our duties as archæologists is to point out any errors which have crept into previous writings, and I take this occasion to mention one error into which the Rev. Mr. Poole fell in his description of this church, at page 3 of your third volume of Reports. The chancel aisle, though it has much Perpendicular work about it, is of an earlier date; but it was so much altered at the time the chancel was rebuilt, that it was easy to omit the discovery. I must also mention that the windows, mullions, and tracery, are nearly all modern.

In the vestry and the room over it are the original twelve figures which supported the roof of the south aisle; they are worthy of a careful examination as specimens of the thirteenth century work. One of the misereres, or stall seats, is also there, of the fifteenth century.

When the tower was commenced, a fresco of St. Catharine was discovered on the wall. This was traced by Mr. Brandon, and has been engraved.

At the time that Nichols wrote his History, there was remaining in the north transept, or St. Catharine's chapel, some painted glass, in which was represented a fox preaching to some geese. A legend was under it, and was a perversion of the passage of Scripture, *God is my witness how I long for you all in the bowels of Christ.* It was written in Latin, and rendered thus, "God is my witness, how I long after you in my bowels."

This, no doubt, was a satire, and satires of this kind were then very common on the monks. Between the regular clergy and parish priests, and the monks of all kinds, there was perpetual antagonism, and the parish clergy were ever endeavouring to throw ridicule on and destroy the influence of the monks, and this is a very favourable specimen of the class. Monks are frequently represented by a monkey, and there are some paving tiles in the

town where they are thus shewn,—the monkey is turning a summersault, while another is drinking out of a goblet.

In the tower some other discoveries were made. Some wax candles were found in the wall, and said to be Norman. I am not able to form an opinion, for they were sent last year to Peterborough, and I have not been able to see them. From the description I have heard I doubt their antiquity.

A coffin lid, rather small, was also found. Its age appears to be of the end of the fourteenth century. It is about $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, rather tapering, and 50 inches long, the head shewing in the upper part. I have not yet completely made out the meaning of the inscription, which is very much worn, but the name of *Robert Martyn* is clearly visible.

Of the roofs there are some excellent remains of the Perpendicular period: namely, in the chancel aisle, where the Tudor flower is freely introduced, both in squares and circles, and where there are many remains of colour and gold. The chapel of St. Catharine has a somewhat similar roof.

Enclosing part of the organ space is a part of a screen seven feet long, and which probably is part of a chantry screen.

In the churchyard are some very admirable wood carvings to a bench, the ends of which have some interesting poppy-heads intermixed with human heads. I trust these will not be destroyed.

I must not omit to mention the wooden porch on the north side, which is a very unique example of wooden fan-tracery. Of the new works there is something to be said beyond the casual remarks I have already made. The great acquirements of the architect whom you have selected to renew the church lead us to the conclusion that the works will rival the early structure, and remain lasting monuments to the talent of the architect and the taste and liberality of the parishioners. A tower of the massiveness and altitude of St. Martin's requires, of course, an enormous strength of substructure, and what are technically called the "legs" of the tower have to be constructed scientifically and substantially: in doing this Mr. Brandon has arranged the lines of the arches so as to produce a peculiar effect, as though the vertical lines are bent outwards. This is a very common ocular illusion, observable in almost every cathedral and other vaulted nave or aisle, caused by the contact of lines and curves at angles more obtuse than a right angle; and the only cause of this appearing more prominently here than usual is that it is in a narrower space and with a greater number of lines. The same effect will be observed in a building standing on a hill side, where it requires a large amount of faith to believe that the building is really upright. Any similar contact of lines produces the same result; and the peculiar appearance of the tower arches must not be looked upon as a defect, but as the inevitable result of the arrangement of the arches, which appear to have been built so as to

impede as little as possible the through views of this highly interesting remain of Mediæval skill.

Mr. Edward Levien, M.A., F.S.A., next read the following Paper:

ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LETITIA COUNTESS OF LEICESTER.

It has been remarked by the accomplished authoress of *Women in France during the Eighteenth Century*, that "men have filled the pages of history with their own deeds, their perilous daring in war, their subtle skill in peace, their designs, vast and magnificent, the power of their ideas, the triumphs of their genius, the revolutions in their faith and government, all they have done or undergone has been faithfully recorded; . . . but woman, in the peace and quiet beauty of her domestic life, in the gentleness of her love, in the courage of her charity, in the holiness of her piety, we must not hope to find." I think that this sweeping assertion might easily be refuted, and I trust that we shall at any rate stand acquitted of having ignored the "rights of woman;" for I venture to hope that this meeting, which has listened to and welcomed the able paper which has been already read upon the "Earls of Leicester," will not be disinclined to accord *place aux dames* and accept an account relative to a lady whose life was indeed an eventful one, and whose connexion and association with the highest and most celebrated people of her day, render her an object of interest, not only to archæologists—as to those who are concerned in investigating the history and manners of past ages—but also to such as merely regard details, like those which I am about to lay before you, as illustrative of the character and habits of a person whose station was so exalted, and whose fortunes were so remarkable, as were those of Lettice Countess of Leicester.

Craik, in his *Romance of the Peerage*, has given her biography in a memoir entitled "Lettice Knollys," for such was her maiden name; but it is so intermingled with notices of and long digressions concerning several of her contemporaries, comparatively little of it, in fact, being occupied with her own personal history, that I propose, with your permission, to give a brief sketch of her life, before reading to you the few unpublished documents concerning her which are to be found in the State Paper Office.

Letitia Knollys, then, was born either in 1539 or 1540. Her father, Sir Francis, was one of Henry VIII.'s gentleman pensioners, held office under Edward VI., and was so zealously attached to, and so active in carrying out the principles of the Reformation, that upon Mary's accession he found it prudent to retire to Germany. No sooner, however, had Elizabeth ascended

the throne in 1558, than he returned to England, where his well-known ardour in religious matters, added to his connection through marriage with the queen, procured him immediate employment and a certain degree of distinction about the court. He was made a privy councillor, vice-chamberlain and treasurer of the household, captain of the guard, and ultimately, in 1593, towards the close of his life (for he did not die till 1596), he was created a knight of the garter. On 1st of November, 1566, when the Houses of Parliament met to address the Queen on the subject of her marriage with a view towards settling the royal succession, Sir Francis Knollys was selected by Elizabeth to convey to them a message to the effect that they were not to trouble themselves any further on the matter, but to be satisfied with her majesty's promise that she intended to marry. It certainly may have been the Queen's "intention" at this time, as it might be and probably was several times during her life to redeem this promise; but we all know how she ever managed to elude the matrimonial tie, and to pass her life "in maiden meditation," if not "fancy free." In 1567 Sir Francis had the custody of the unfortunate Mary of Scotland at Bolton Castle, and in 1586 was one of those who were appointed to try her for her life. His wife was Catherine, daughter of William Carey, by Mary, daughter of Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, and sister of Queen Anne Boleyn. Lady Knollys was chief lady of the Queen's bedchamber, and died in 1569. An inscription upon her tomb in St. Edmund's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, informs her husband, amongst other matters, of a fact—which, by the way, he must have known pretty well himself—for it says:

> "Illa tibi liberos sex et bis quinque marito
> Protulit; æqualis fœmina masque fuit;"

which does not mean in this instance that Sir Francis and his wife both equally "ruled the roast," but merely that they had an equal number of male and female children, and of these Lettice was the eldest daughter. Thus it was that the Knollys family had, as it were, a double claim upon Elizabeth's consideration; for, as Fuller remarks, "the husband was allied to the Queen in conscience (as fellow-sufferers for the Protestant cause), the wife in kindred." Being then the Queen's first cousin once removed, owing to the sisterhood of her grandmother and Anne Boleyn, Lettice Knollys no doubt enjoyed the most favourable countenance of her royal relation, and was one of the most brilliant ornaments of the radiant circle that surrounded and graced her throne; for we have it upon Fuller's authority, that the Knollys family "were conversing constantly at court." Here it was, in all probability, that she first attracted the attention of the nobleman who was her first husband, Walter Devereux, Viscount Hereford, afterwards Earl of

Essex, to whom she was married *circa* 1562, she being at that period about twenty-two years old, and her husband of the same age. It would be beyond the scope of this paper to enter into minute biographical details in regard to Lord Essex, but it will be necessary to mention some few facts relative to his life and career, inasmuch as they are so important when viewed in connexion with the history of the Earl of Leicester and his countess, the subject of the present notice.

In May, 1572, Viscount Hereford was created Earl of Essex, and from this period his sorrows and troubles seem to have commenced. We are unfortunately compelled to believe that the conduct of his wife was the main cause of his unhappiness and of his ardent wish to quit his home and country; for although she had not openly sinned against him, yet there can be little doubt that Leicester had shown marked attentions to her, and that she received them in such a manner as to excite Essex's suspicion and anger.

The facts of the case are as follows. Essex had at this period volunteered to put down Shane O'Neill's rebellion in Ireland, upon condition that he should, if successful, be put into possession of half the lands recovered from the rebels. There is no doubt that Leicester was very anxious for the execution of this plan, urged it strongly upon the Queen, and solicited Essex most vehemently to undertake it. Both Fuller and Camden assure us of this fact, the former asserting that he was "put upon this adventure by Leicester—who loved the earl's nearest relation" (referring of course to his wife) "better than he loved the earl himself;" and the latter that, "he followed therein the counsel of those who desired above all things to have him further off, and to plunge him into dangers under pretence of procuring him honour." Such statements as these prove that Leicester, true to his character in such matters, was both cunning and cruel in the means which he devised for accomplishing the object of his desires, and the use of the word "those" would seem to imply that the countess was an accomplice with him in his treachery. It is, however, scarcely credible that a woman whose subsequent correspondence, as printed by the author whom I have mentioned,* indicates a nature both tender and true, and whose unpublished letters, which I purpose to read to you this evening, give evidence of a kindly and affectionate heart,—of whom Fuller himself says, "This Letice, though of the weaker sex, may well be accounted, with her brethren, as the strongest pillar of the family,"—it is, I repeat, scarcely credible that such a woman would have married a man, who in order to gratify a sinful passion for herself, had, with her own knowledge and consent, not only persuaded her husband to

* See her Letters, G. L. Craik's *Romance of the Peerage*. London. 1848. Vol. p. 150 *et seq*. Printed from Birch MS., 4124.

embark in an undertaking which involved him both in loss and disgrace, but was even very strongly suspected of having bribed his own servants to poison him. The high position and attractive person of Leicester doubtless dazzled the countess and betrayed her into indiscretions which were not uncommon among ladies of the highest rank at that period and of which even the Queen herself was guilty. At these Essex was of course naturally and justly offended, but we have no evidence of actual faithlessness to her marriage vows on Lady Essex's part. On the contrary, contemporary history does not pretend to implicate her in these proceedings, and upon weighing the evidence there is every reason to conclude that the plots carried on against her husband by Leicester were conceived and put into practice wholly without her connivance, and that although she cannot morally be considered blameless, she must at any rate be judicially pronounced innocent of crime. The whole of this unhappy affair is still involved in much obscurity,* and however it may have been, Lady Essex's conduct produced such an estrangement between her noble husband and herself that, during his last hours she was not even near him; and we are told by one of his chaplains, that when he lay dying "the only care that he had of any worldly matter was for his children, to whom often he commended his love and blessing, and yielded many times, even with great sighs, most devout prayers unto God that he would bless them, and give them grace to fear him. For his daughters also he prayed, lamenting the time which is so vain and ungodly, as he said, considering the frailties of women;" and speaking of those who had so deeply injured him, he said, "Lord, from the bottom of my heart I forgive them." He left by his wife, Robert, his successor, who was executed in 1601, "A man on whom," writes Lord Macaulay, himself a native of this county, and one of whom Leicestershire may well be proud, "nature and fortune had lavished all their bounties in vain; and whom valour, grace, genius, royal favour, popular applause conducted to an early and ignominious doom." Besides this son the earl left two other sons and two daughters.

His decease took place on the 22nd September, 1576, three years after his departure for Ireland, and during the whole of that time Leicester's passion for the countess had not diminished, although at the very same time he was carrying on an amour with, or according to her own account, was privately married to Douglas Howard, the widow of John Lord Sheffield, whom also he was accused of having caused to be poisoned in 1569. At any

* See the note to Lingard's *History of England*, vol. vi. p. 157 (6th edit., London, 1854), where it is said that "there is reason to believe that she bore him two children during the absence of her husband in Ireland." Had this been the case, Leicester was not the kind of man who would have been likely to marry her afterwards.

rate in 1572 Lady Sheffield had borne him a son, that famous Robert Dudley, so well known for his scientific attainments, who assumed the title of Duke of Northumberland in 1620; but notwithstanding this, no sooner had Lord Essex breathed his last than Leicester strove to free himself from Lady Sheffield, who, doubtless wishing to escape the fate which, according to a commonly received, but apparently erroneous story, overtook her predecessor,* Amy Robsart, and fearing, as she herself asserted, for her life,† consented to forego her claim upon Leicester, and married Sir Edward Stafford. Having thus taken care, as the saying is, "to be off with the old love before he was on with the new," Leicester married Lady Essex. Camden, in his *History and Annals of England in the reign of Elizabeth*, gives us to understand that their union took place, secretly, the very year that Essex died, for under that date (viz. 1576) he tells us that although there was a report that the countess and Leicester had been married, yet Sir Francis Knollys, her father, would not be satisfied until the ceremony was performed in his own presence and that of credible witnesses; but, he adds, "these things" (meaning the marriage before Sir Francis) "were done a year or two afterwards;" and we know that the public marriage did actually take place at Wanstead, on 21st September, 1578.

During all this time the real state of affairs was kept secret from the Queen; for it is scarcely credible, that had Elizabeth known how matters really stood, she would have coquetted as she did with the earl, nor would Leicester at this period have been intriguing to marry Elizabeth herself, had he not intended probably to put the Countess Lettice out of the way, should it suit his purpose so to do; since there can be but little doubt that he was unscrupulous (even in the judgment of his contemporaries) in the methods which he employed of accomplishing the object of his desires. But in 1579 her majesty was informed of all that had taken place, under circumstances which are too well known to need recapitulation here. Leicester was confined by the Queen's order in Greenwich castle, and had it not been that he had had powerful advocates to espouse his cause, would no doubt have been committed to the Tower. Moreover his wife became henceforth the object of Elizabeth's aversion and persecution.

I shall not, however, trouble you by following out Leicester's career further. It is well known how in a short time he succeeded in re-establishing himself in his royal mistress' favour, and how he still contrived to get rid of those who were obnoxious to him.

* For an able and impartial summary of this, see an essay by T. J. Pettigrew, Esq., F.R.S., entitled "An Inquiry concerning the Death of Amy Robsart," London, 1859, where the commonly received account of Amy Robsart's death by poison is totally invalidated.

† Gervase Holles gives a full account of the whole of this matter: Lady Sheffield's son was pronounced illegitimate.

There can be but little doubt that Elizabeth must have entertained a sincere and strong affection for him, otherwise she never would have countenanced a man stained with guilt, both proved and suspected, so far as to propose to create him her Lieutenant-General for England and Ireland, and thus virtually to have placed the government of her whole realm in his hands. Yet this she actually would have done had she not been prevailed upon to reconsider her determination upon the earnest remonstrance of the Lord Chancellor, Sir Christopher Hatton. Leicester died in September, 1588; and here, again, the suspicion of crime attaches itself to his countess. It is said, indeed, that she poisoned him; but there are two* versions of the story, one of which asserts that she gave him some pernicious liquor which he had himself prepared, to administer possibly to herself, but which she did not know to be poison; the other, that owing to a discovery which Leicester had made of an intrigue between his countess and Sir Christopher Blount, she deliberately determined to put him out of the way; and this determination being strengthened by Leicester's taking Blount along with him to the Netherlands, when he went there as governor in 1585, and setting, as some said, an assassin to attack him, the countess administered the fatal draught to her husband out of revenge, in order to remove the obstacle which prevented her free intercourse with Blount. The latter is the account given by Ben Johnson, in his conversations with Drummond of Hawthornden, and he adds the following epitaph upon Leicester:—

"Heere lyes a valiaunt warrior
Who never drew a sword,
Heere lyes a noble courtier
Who never kept his word;
Here lies the Earle of Leicester,
Who governed the estates,
Whom the earth could never living love,
And the just heaven now hates."

Before the middle of August, 1589, (*i.e.* in rather less than a year after Leicester's death), his countess married Blount. Here, again, much uncertainty rests upon her motives of action, and it appears probable that the circumstances in which she was left by Leicester induced her to consent to so speedy a union with her third husband, in the vain hope that she might escape the pecuniary difficulties and embarrassments in which she was placed by the earl's death. Although he left nearly half his property to his wife, it was found upon winding up his estates that he had actually died in debt, not only to private creditors but also to the crown; so that, as we are told by Camden, his effects were disposed of at a

* The narrative and the authorities are given, and the *pros* and *cons* weighed in Craik, vol. i., pp. 124-147.

public sale, and on one of the Harleian Rolls his liabilities are stated at £53,120. 8s. 5d., while the assets left to meet them are said to have amounted to no more than £24,777. 10s. 9d.

The countess therefore finding herself left in so impoverished a condition, and being aware that Elizabeth would prosecute her claims to the uttermost, was eager to obtain some refuge from utter destitution, and she fondly imagined that by marrying Blount she took the surest way to screen herself from the annoyances to which, as Leicester's widow, she would have been subject. For some years after her third marriage, therefore, she lived in retirement at Drayton Bassett, near Tamworth, as the Queen still continued her resentment against her. In 1599 she came to London for the express purpose of having an interview with her majesty, but the Queen would only see her once. She suffered her indeed to kiss her hand, but, it is said, spoke unkindly to her. The countess, however, still endeavoured to mollify her royal mistress; for we are informed that in March 1600 she had finished a "most curious fine gown as a present for the Queen," which, however, Elizabeth declined to accept. In the following year, 1601, Blount (who had always been a traitor) was executed for treason, so that the months of February and March saw the countess deprived both of her son and her husband.

Lady Leicester's marriage with Blount could not be by any means a happy one. She was not one whit the less pestered on account of her late husband's debts during her coverture than she would have been had she remained a widow. The Queen and her private creditors pressed her hard for money, and in Harleian MSS. 304, is "A noate what legacies were given by my L[ady] of Leicester, and delivered by our lady as excequetrix" [to the earl], in which, after the mention of various jewels handed over to Elizabeth, the Earl of Warwick, the Lord Treasurer Burghley, and the Lord Chancellor Hatton, these words are added: "to divers other jewells also, nott now remembered." Moreover Blount, it appears, exercised his matrimonial rights in a somewhat profitable manner to himself; and in the same paper we have "a remembraunce to shewe how my ladye hathe bynne ridde of her jewells," in which it is stated that "the first yeare Sir Christopher Blounte was married, he soulde maneye greate jewells; and hathe continewed the same course almost every year since." A list then follows of what Sir Christopher thus disposed of, and with regard to some of them he appears to have behaved in a very light-fingered and underhanded way; for we are told with respect to a diamond clock, a great diamond table, and "a fayer jewell of diamonds, the best my ladye had left her," that he brought them up to London, and "how he bestowed them God knoweth."

As the various items of property, both real and personal, thus made away with by Blount are printed in Nichols's *Leicestershire*,

it is needless for me to detail them here; but I may add that the poor countess was so "dunned," that she complains that besides all she has given up she is forced out of her jointure to pay "300 powndes yearlie to hir Matie, which," she adds, "is contrary to all equitye, the heyre having lande of inheritance sufficient to discharge debtts to her Matie."

This must have been after 1605, inasmuch as she designates the Earl of Leicester's son by Lady Sheffield as the "heir," for she herself was engaged in contesting his right to be considered as the heir in that year. The decision which was given against Sir Robert's legitimacy held good as against the countess's assertion that he was liable for his father's debts; for, of course, although Sir Robert Dudley inherited what the earl left him, as being expressly styled by him in his will "his base son," still he did not take it as his legitimate heir, and could not therefore in any way be held responsible for his deficits.

The straits to which the countess was reduced at the time of Blount's arrest were very great, and the claims against her so many and so pressing, that the following letter, addressed to Thomas Sackville Lord Buckhurst (afterwards Earl of Dorset), Lord High Treasurer, and endorsed 1600, but written according to the present reckoning in 1601, shows how anxious she was not to diminish her income by losing the wardship of a young gentleman who had been entrusted to her.

"Most noble lord," she says, "I must not omyte to aknowledge my thankfulnes for all your Lps. honorable favours, and namlye for thys last, wherin it plesede you lyke your worthye self to doe me ryght and tendere my quiete, which God will requitt thoe I can not. I have here a fewe perverse tenants that carys themselves pevishly agaynst me, as the bearer can informe your Lp., but a [little?] of your countenance will sone quayle them, wich I beseche you afforde me. Also I mak boulde to put your good Lp. in remembrance of your honorable promyse unto me at my last being ther for the wardshippe of Mr. Petose sonne, who all thoughe I scarslye thynk evere to have good of, the young man being allredye cum to eighteen yeares of age, and hys father not ould, thoe long sycklye, yet now having put hym of hymself into my custodye, my humble sute to your Lp. is that if he shuld chance to faule I myght then be sure without any prevencyone to rest secured of hym undere your Lp. myndfull fauoure, for wich, with all other your graces, synce I can noe farther meryght, I will be thankfull as I am bounde, and my best wishes shall evere attende you, and hartye prayers for the lenkethnynge of your happy dayes to the comforte of your frendes and worthye staye to thys our commone wealth, So I seas your Lp. farther trouble, and remayne deuotede

"To do all honore and sarues,

"L. Leycester."

It would appear, indeed, that the unhappy position in which the countess was placed excited the sympathy and commiseration

of some of the great officers of the state, and the Lord High Treasurer seems to have recommended her as a person to whom the guardianship of young people might safely be entrusted, for we have another holograph letter from her to Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, who was High Treasurer in 1609, endorsed in the December of that year, and which again contains a reference to a wardship, and runs as follows:

"My good Lord, I shuld hould my self uerye unworthye of thys and all your hyghe fauours, if I dyde not acknowledge with greatest thankfullnes your noble bountye therine, besechinge your Lp. to exsepte the widdow's myght, wich for want of other meryght, shall be my hartye prayers to God for your long lyf and health that many may be made styll happye by you; I assure your Lp. your honorable fauoure, wich the world now may tak notyce of, doth me mor good then the gyft it self, thoe it be far mor then I can any way desarue, but what I can I will, and leue the rest to God, whoe contenew your goodnes, and mak euere happye as I infynyghtlye wish, whoe doth allways rest

"Your good Lp. to loue and honore you,

"L. Leycester.

"Your Lp. may be sure I will ews the ward well, hys frends puttynge hym afore into my custodye."

It was in 1606 that the countess's grandson, Robert Devereux, the third and last Earl of Essex of that name, married the wretched Frances Howard, the second daughter of Thomas Earl of Suffolk, the bride being at that time but thirteen and the bridegroom only fourteen years of age. The misery of this union, the declaration of its nullity, Lady Essex's crimes and condemnation with her paramour Robert Carr, Viscount Rochester and Earl of Somerset, for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, who was poisoned by them in September, 1614, must have added fresh pangs to those already endured by the aged countess. After Essex in 1609 or 1610 discovered the aversion which his wife entertained for him, and became aware of the nature of the feelings with which she regarded his rival, he left her entirely; and when the sentence of nullity of the marriage was pronounced in 1614, went to reside with his grandmother, who was still living in retirement at Drayton. The following letter, which is holograph, and is written in a very tremulous hand, shows us, as well as do her own words, that the countess now began to feel the infirmities of age. It is addressed to her grandson, or as she styles him, "my honorable dere sonne," Robert Rich Earl of Holland, and is undated; but it must have been written after 1624, as the earl was not raised to that dignity till that year, and at this period the countess was over eighty-four years old.

"My nobille good Sonne, if my oulde weake hand would sarve me, I should requit your ofte kynd memorye better; but were I more to re-

commende thys worthye barrer, my spesyall good frend, whos onlye desyre is to be made knowne unto you, he is in such place as it may be smale to you, but may doe you sarves, he loves all your frendes and honors you much for the good he bears; and so, being werye, I recommend my hartye love with God's best blessinge to your worthye self, your noble ladye, and all yours. Restynge evere your grandmother derly lovinge you,

"L. Leycester.

"Thys berare, Mr. Chamberlayne, hath done manye pleasurs for my friends at my request."

The next letter, which is addressed to her "honorable good sonne, the Earl of Carlisle," is also written to her grandson. It is endorsed 1629, and it shows clearly that the countess was still a woman of business, notwithstanding her troubles and her extreme age. It is written to James Hay Earl of Carlisle, husband of Lucy Percy, daughter of Henry Earl of Northumberland, by Dorothy the Countess of Leicester's daughter by the Earl of Essex.

"My Lord, I mak noe dowghte but you tak it as intended for a kynes to let you have my hous, espesyallye upon thos tearmes you have thus long held it. Now parseiving you have noe great use of it, my request is that you wilbe pleased to leaue it and to delivier upe your leas that I may now dyspos of it; and I hope you will take into dew consederasyone how rewinous that hows is, and to afforde me the twoe yeares rent behynd, that I may have it presentlye repayred, otherwyse I thynk noe man will take it of me, and my smaule meanes will not well enduer so great a lose; so not doughtinge but your lordshippe will delle honorablye and frendlye with me and that spedelye, praying God to bles you and my noble daughter, as I hartylye wish and rest evere,

"Your l^ps^ grandmother,

"much honorynge you,

"L. Leycester."

This letter is written in a very shaky hand, and gives evidence that the bodily powers of the old countess were at last beginning to fail her. She was not, however, yet quite *hors de combat*, for Mr. John Povy says, in a letter printed by Sir H. Ellis, quoted by Craik, and written to Sir Thomas Puckering in 1632, that "my lady of Leicester, being six years older" than her brother the Earl of Banbury, who was eighty-six, "can yet walk a mile in a morning," no slight feat for a lady of ninety-two, more especially when we reflect upon that eventful and troublous life which the Countess of Leicester had led.

Three years after this, upon Christmas day 1635, Letitia Knollys breathed her last. Her epitaph in the collegiate church of Warwick, which was written by her great-grandson Gervase Clifton, tells us that "that face, that hand, . . . once was fairest in the land," that

"She that in her youth had bene
Darling to the maiden Quene,
Till she was content to quitt
Her favour for her favouritt.
. . . . . .
Thought it safest to retyre,
From all care and vaine desire,
To a private country cell;
Where she spent her days so well,
That to her the better sort
Came, as to an holy court,
And the poor that lived neare,
Dearth nor famine could not feare."*

He adds more in the same strain, which we can only hope to be as true as it is complimentary. The will of the countess, which has never yet been printed, runs thus:—

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Lady Lettice Countess of Leicester, widow, being in perfect health and memorie, doe make and ordayne, under this myne owne hand, my last will and testament, the 15th of October, A.D. 1622, etc., etc."

After the formula bequeathing her soul to God, and expressing her belief in the consolations of religion, etc., etc., she goes on to desire that she may be buried without pomp at Warwick, by the side of her

"Dear lord and husband the Earl of Leicester, with whom I desire to lie entombed. I doe make and ordeyne for my executor, my hon^ble and dear grandchild the Earl of Essex, assuredly trusting that hee will see this my will in all things faithfully performed, which I entreate him of all loves to doe, praying him in the duty to God and the true love to me to see due performance according to my playne and true meaning of this my last will, even in uprightness of conscience, as I know my sonn would have it. And first I will that all my debts due, either in lawe or conscience, which I think now are not many [so that, after all, the countess had managed to quiet her creditors], may be paid with all convenient expedition. Then that my funeral and legacies be likewise discharged, with fitting allowance for all other travells and paynes in and concerning the performance of this business. Also I doe ordeyne to have my house continewed for one moneth after my decease, soe as my servants in that tyme may the better provyde for themselves, and because I have lyved all my life to my full proportion, it cannot be looked for that I should have much to bestowe, but onely to bring me to the ground, with some little memory to some few of my friends, and speciall regard to my servants, which I hope my deare son and the rest will see, according to my care, and as their case requires, performed. And therefore for my lands, goods, and chattell whatsoever, I appoint them to goe to the performance of my will in this manner and forme follow^e. First, I give and bequeath to my dear son the E. of Essex, my greate diamond

* The whole of the epitaph is printed in Nichols' *Leicestershire*, vol. i. p. II., p. 538; and in Pettigrew's *Chronicles of the Tombs*, p. 339.

that I usually weare of my thumb, as my best jewel to my worthiest child, hoping he will accept of what else I may leave him, my will being performed, with God's blessing; that ring, if my son have no children, to my daughter of Hertford; I give to my dear sister, the Ladie Gerald, £50., with the jewell in my hatt I weare everie day. I give to my dear brother, Sir Francis Knolles, £100.; I give to my dear sister, the Ladie Laware, £20.; I give to servant, Christopher Kettle, £100., and to his wife £100., my chamber plate, with the bed she lies in, and furniture, with what else I give her with myne owne hand. And so to any other.* I give lynnens to Grace Kettle, the rest of both to Besse. To Bridget, £xx. To the rest of my gentlemen £40. a-piece, and to my preacher £50. To all my other servants, let them be considered according to the tyme of their service at the discretion of my executors, especially entreating my son to be good to my old servants, that they may enjoy with his favor the places and livings they have of me. And that he will, for my sake, protect them. Kettle I most chiefly recomend for his true honestie, being such a servant as I think few masters have; divers others are honest and serviceable, as my son knows; but I will charge him no further then hee please, onely to be good unto them. [I doe give to my daughter of Hertford my playne tablett, with her father's picture in it, and [as to] the pearle at it, this is otherwise disposed];† for the rest of my grandchildren I have nothing worthie to give them, but doe heartily pray to God to blesse them all and theirs. I doe gyve to the poore at Warwicke and here £100. For all other charges according to my ability and discrecion of my executors.

"Leicester."

Then follow these codicils:—

"I doe give to my daughter of Hertford my sable with the head, and my unicornes horne. I doe give to my young sonne, Gervas Clifton, my best great pearle to hang at his eare, and the hatband and a diamond ring, with Gods blessing. I give to my sonne, Sr Walter Devereux, fiftie pieces and a diamond ring, with Gods blessing. I give to my little daughter, the Lady Arbella, my cheyne of smallest perle, with Gods blessing.

"Leicester."

"I have had no counsell herein but God and myself, wherefore I desire my noble sonne to make the best of all faultes and fayles according to my true meaning. 25 Mar. 1634. Delivered and published by the s^d^ countess, in the presence of us, Rich^d^. Chamberleyne, Humfrey Colles, Grace Kettle.

"Proved at London on the 17th of January, 1634."

Thus, then, having reached the age of ninety-four, having been born in the reign of Henry VIII., and lived through those of Philip and Mary, Elizabeth, James I., and a portion of that of Charles I., what changes of national faith, politics, dress, customs,

* In this place are several words struck through with the pen in the original.

† This is erased or rather struck through in the original.

and modes of thought had not this noble lady witnessed? Happy is it for us that we live in quieter times, and that those who are most exalted in rank and position, are also the most conspicuous for their domestic virtues. In this respect, indeed, if in no other

"ἡμεῖς τοι πατέρων μέγ' ἀμείνονες εὐχομεθ' εἶναι."

Our object, however, is not that of moralists, but of antiquaries; and to us the biography of the aged Countess of Leicester presents food for contemplation, not so much in the study of what should be the end and aim of man's existence here, as a measure of comparison between the modes of life in our own times and those now so long gone by; a memorial stone, as it were, placed on the path of history to indicate our social progress from one generation to another.

The usual votes of thanks closed the meeting, which was very numerously attended.

September 29th, 1862.

The Rev. R. Burnaby in the chair.

The Rev. G. Q. Ashby was elected a Member of the Society.

Dr. Lee, the President of the British Archæological Association, presented to the Society, a copy of "*Speculum Hartwellianum*," also catalogues of his Theological and Law books.

Mr. J. S. Crossley, of Derby, presented through Mr. Bellairs, a rubbing of a Brass of a curious and singular character, existing at the east end of the north aisle of the church of Otley, Yorkshire. It bears the pedigree and arms of a family for several generations. Mr. Bellairs considered it to be unique, being rather a memorial of a whole family than of an individual. The upper inscription, on either side of which were the arms of Lyndlay and Palmes, was, as nearly as could be read:

Nec fictum fecialis erat nec numere partum,
Verum antiqua probant Hoc monumenta gemis.

The lower inscription:

Plurima Lindlorum, templo conduntur in isto
Vltima Palmsorum corpora bina iacent
Gloria certa viri non est, sunt omnia vana
Nec faciunt clarum, stemmata clara virum
Hoc virtutis opus: justus ceu palma virebit,
Nam dotes animi nulla sepulchra tegunt.

ANNO $\overline{\text{DNI}}$: 1593.

The pedigrees between these inscriptions were those of Lyndlay and Palmes. In the centre of the pedigrees appeared the arms of

Palmes (with the canting motto "Justus ut Palma,") with a crescent for difference quartering four other coats of arms, one of which was Lyndlay. Under the pedigrees reposed a figure, presumed from the pedigree to be that of Francis Palmes, who appeared first to have married a lady named Corbet, who died in 1597, and secondly a lady named Hadnall, who appeared to have been living at the date of the brass, 1593.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited two drawings (fac-similies) of ancient stained glass now remaining in Stockerston Church, Leicestershire. One represented a female figure, a member of the family of Boyville, in whose possession the manor was for several generations, John de Boyville founding a hospital there 1466. The other represents most graphically the nailing to the cross. The exactness and beauty of these fac-similes were much admired. Mr. Bellairs remarked that artists in stained glass might study the glass at Stockerston with good results, the colouring being extremely simple and effective.*

Mr. North said he had much pleasure in calling the attention of the Society to the very high position taken in the department of ornamental art in the International Exhibition, by Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth, a member of the Society, and in laying before them the remarks of Dr. Dresser, Ph.D., F.L.S., &c., &c., whose position as an art critic, and whose close connection with the South Kensington Museum and other institutions, rendered his opinion of considerable value. It would be remembered that Mr. Lea was the successful competitor for the last extra colour prize offered by the Ecclesiological Society, and that he exhibited at the March (1862) meeting of this Society, one of a series of drawings for the mural decorations of a church dedicated to St. Alban, then in course of completion, at Rochdale, accompanied with an intimation that the drawing, coloured, with other portions of the wall decoration, would be exhibited in the International Exhibition then forming. No one visiting the Mediæval Court there, containing the contributions of the Ecclesiological Society, could have failed to notice this drawing; and that was the colouring so highly commended by Dr. Dresser in his work on the Development of Ornamental Art in the International Exhibition. Speaking of surface decoration, he observed that while the painted decorations of the Exhibition did not, as a whole, manifest that wholesome advancement which occurred in the papers, the most meritorious examples appeared exclusively in the British department. Then, speaking highly of the contributions of Messrs. Harland and Fisher, of London, Dr. Dresser said: "To the north of this we have a passage of great merit, intended for the decoration of a church dedicated to St. Alban, in the north of England, the ex-

* Mr. Bellairs has drawn with his usual correctness the accompanying illustrations of this glass expressly for these pages.

STAINED GLASS. STOCKERSTON CHURCH.

WELLS ANASTATIC PRESS, IPSWICH

STAINED GLASS STOCKERSTON. LEICESTERSHIRE.

hibitor being Mr. C. J. Lea, of High Street, Lutterworth. This decoration is of an exalted order, and is one of the most successful ornamental developments in the entire Exhibition; the striking characters being the feeling of quiet which prevails, the softness of colouring, the purity of forms, and the excellence of the composition."

Mr. Hunt exhibited a specimen of the "snaphaunce," the parent of the flint lock, which so long held its position till superseded by the percussion cap. It was called the snaphaunce from the irregulars who used it in the Low Countries, a set of marauders, termed by the Dutch, on account of their propensities,—"snophaus," or poultry stealers. It answered their purpose better than the old matchlock, which, with its burning tinder, was apt to betray their whereabouts. Its construction was simple and effective; a flat piece of furrowed steel was placed on a small moveable post of iron, secured, but not tightly, by a screw just below the pan. Then a piece of sharp flint was placed in the jaws of the cock, which, being released by the trigger, struck down upon the face of the notched plate, and produced the sparks.

Mr. Hunt further produced for inspection a curious metal pectoral dyptich (there being means of passing a cord or chain through it, for suspension round the neck) about an inch square when closed. It was apparently a work of Russian art, exceedingly rude in execution. When closed, the outer decoration of one side, or cover, presented a cross, on either side of which were emblems of the passion—a spear, and a reed bearing a sponge; under the cross a skull. The other cover was ornamented by a rose or star. Upon opening the dyptich one side presented the Virgin and Child in the upper portion, under which were two figures. The other side contained the figure of an aged man apparently bearing a book in his left hand, whilst the right was held up in the act of blessing; here again were two figures, one on either side. The figures were all raised considerably, and had each a *nimbus* round the head; but were so far worn as to preclude a more definite description.

LATIMER'S HOUSE AT THURCASTON.

Mr. James Thompson read the following Paper:—

In the village of Thurcaston there are still standing two old houses, each designated by its occupiers and others "Latimer's House."

One of these stands near the church. It has three gables. It is of early Elizabethan date. It is lighted by two windows in front, each of which consists of six lights, divided by a transom.

Just above the upper window, and on the horizontal line from which the gables spring, is a band on which an inscription is still visible. Rendered into modern spelling it reads thus: "THIS HOUSE WAS BUILDED ANNO DOMINI 1558, AND IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF OUR SOVEREIGN LADY, QUEEN ELIZABETH, BY ME NICHOLAS GROSVENOR."

This fabric speaks for itself, therefore; but it is alleged that an older house occupied the site, and that in *that* was born the Martyr of Thurcaston.

The other house which claims to have once sheltered Latimer, and to have been his own and his father's and sisters' home, stands a short distance northward of the church, on the left hand side of the visitor as he walks away from that building in the direction of Rothley. This house is rude and homely in its exterior. Seen as it is approached from the church, it offers one side of its timber framework to view. The original structure was made of strong beams of oak; the interstices being of mud, for which bricks have been substituted. In one place, however, a square of mud still remains to attest the original condition of the fabric. A foundation wall built of forest stone, of five feet above the ground, formed the basis on which the timber framework was laid, and it still remains. In the interior, the woodwork is all of oak, of strength and thickness surprising to modern builders: the oak staircase is firm under the tread as if built of stone, or as if it were solid rock. The boarding of stairs and doors is left as it was sawn from the tree, with the original "saw jinks" visible, except where the busy housewives have polished it in their labours during the past three or four hundred years. Throughout the house the beams and timbers have been fastened together by oaken pegs, seven or eight inches long,—no nail of iron having been seen in the original fabric. All was throughout strong, rude, plain, and palpable,—no disguise of artist's trickery concealing the frank simplicity of the construction.

Of one peculiar feature some indications are still left. At the north end of the present building—that is, the ancient part of it, not the comparatively modern smithy—is a chamber, directly accessible from the street. A doorway, to which steps of forest stone outside conducted, admitted to the chamber. Within the door there were three stairs, and then the dormitory, twenty feet long by eighteen wide, was entered. This has been considered to be the Guest Chamber, in which, in an age when inns were unknown in secluded hamlets, our ancestors offered to the benighted wayfarer a refuge from the storm and the tempest. As there are traces, behind the house, of a broad dyke leading to the bridge, and as the tradition is that the old road from Leicester over the Forest lay by this house, the supposition is not unreasonable that this Guest Chamber was provided for the shelter of travellers who, driven by stress of weather, in this once wild and thinly popu-

lated region, had no other harbours where they could find protection from "the peltings of the pitiless storm."

In the lower storey, the ground floor, was a roomy "house place," an apartment so well known in old farm houses, where substantial comfort is understood, but where pretension is not even affected. This would appear to have been the room in which the occupants of the house have always lived.

Now, it remains to determine which of these interesting fabrics was really Latimer's house.

I feel no hesitation in saying the latter.

The reasons for doing so are few, but seem to me to be decisive. For it should be remarked that the house built by Nicholas Grosvenor was the Manor House; and if it occupied the site of an older fabric, that would be the earlier Manor House. Nicholas Grosvenor was Lord of the Manor. The pedigree of the Grosvenors is on record. It shows that Richard Grosvenor of Eton, Cheshire, married Catherine, the third daughter of Richard Cotton, the Lord of the Manor of Thurcaston, in the reign of Edward IV. On the death of her father, this lady (a co-heiress) received as her share of her father's estate the manor and advowson of Thurcaston. The Manor House, therefore, became Richard Grosvenor's, and passed to his descendants, and here doubtless they resided. During part of the time in which the Grosvenors were settled at Thurcaston, the father of Latimer—a substantial yeoman, a tenant probably of the Grosvenors, who ploughed his fields, and whose wife milked his cows, and who required his son and daughters to help him,—dwelt in the old house up the town street, in his own comfortable and farmerlike household. To suppose that yeoman Latimer was living in Squire Grosvenor's house is a conjecture that needs no refutation. Improbable as such a circumstance would be now, it would be ten times more improbable in an age when social distinctions were more sharply defined and more rigidly marked. It cannot, I think, be doubted that the house near the church was always the Manor House, inhabited by the village 'squires, and that the house in the street was a yeoman's dwelling, such as Hugh Latimer's father lived in. "My father," says the Martyr-Bishop in one of his sermons, "was a yeoman, and had no land of his own, only he had a farm of £3. or £4. by year at the uttermost, and hereupon he tilled so much as kept a half dozen men. He had walk for an hundred sheep, and my mother milked thirty kine."

I have pleasure in exhibiting by the obliging permission of Mr. Dudgeon, the artist, a drawing of Latimer's house, taken from the rear of the building. In local colouring and fidelity to detail it is admirable. I also lay before the Society a pleasing view of the bridge behind the house, a relic of the thirteenth or fourteenth century, which is almost equal in interesting association to the

house itself; as it and the scene around were once as familiar to Hugh Latimer's eyes as his own home, and as his daily road lay over this bridge to the meadows beyond. Both pictures are intended to be placed in the forthcoming Exhibition in the Town Museum, and will constitute two of its chiefest attractions to all interested in our county history and antiquities.

The Rev. J. H. Hill then read the following

NOTES UPON ALEXTON CHURCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

This church is interesting chiefly from the various changes it has undergone at different periods.

It is described in the old terrier of glebe lands, &c., dated 1638, as "consisting of one allie or ile, and the steeple having four small bells," and as such it continued until the commencement of the restoration now in progress. But it bore traces of having been a much larger church, with north and south aisles. The arcades of these aisles remained with their arches filled up and plain square-headed windows inserted.

The north side of the nave is the oldest part of the church; its two Norman arches being fine specimens of twelfth century work. These arches are richly carved, and of different patterns. The one is a zigzag, and the other enriched lozenge with scolloped labels. The central pillar is round, with the usual bold square abacus. The two responds are of the same character, except that the face of the capital of the westernmost is curiously ornamented with circular work. These arches were at one time frescoed. The two responds seem to indicate that the original aisle consisted of two bays, but it was afterwards lengthened, as another semi-circular arch of plainer work can be traced on the outside, and a small portion of it also on the inside close to the tower.

The chancel arch was taken down at the beginning of the present century, but the half pillars that supported it were left. These are round with capitals plainly foliated, and square abaci, having their corners chamfered or cut off. The mortised holes in the pillars show that at one time there was a rood screen.

The south arcade of the nave consisted of three bays, with pointed arches and octagonal pillars. The mouldings, etc., indicate that this aisle was of decorated style, but of rather poor character. The respond at the east end is weak, and the work throughout rather rough. Several portions of square-headed windows have been found during the present restoration built up in the walls; these in all probability belonged to the south aisle.

The chancel, like the body of the church, has undergone some changes, as it bears traces of having been lengthened some years after the portion nearest the nave was built, the south wall not

being in a straight line, and the side windows of different dates. These windows consist of two lights. Of the earlier ones, that on the south side has geometrical tracery, the other is plain lancet shaped. On the north side there is also a small one light leper's window with cusps, corresponding exactly in shape with the piscina within the altar space and on the south side. These may all be considered as early decorated, and probably are of the same date. There is no doubt that this chancel was subsequently lengthened, and the piscina was then removed to its present position. The later windows are square-headed, and that on the south side has poor debased tracery. The east window of this period was probably removed, and the unsightly churchwarden's window inserted, when the monument by the side of it, bearing date 1726, was erected. There is one peculiar feature about the chancel arch not yet mentioned, viz., that the shaft of the southern respond stands back about a foot from the place it should occupy on the base. The question is—was it originally left so, or was it moved at some subsequent time?

The porch on the south side was probably built at the time when the aisles were removed and the arches filled in. It had this inscription over the doorway, "Edward Andrews the founder hereof. Ao. Dmn., 1594. R.E. 36, Deo gracias."* It was built out of the materials of the original porch, as the shafts of the doorway arch were of decorated character, corresponding to the aisle. Instead of the arch a flattish stone was placed upon them. The gable was ornamented with two grotesque and rudely carved figures of animals, much older than the Elizabethan finial set up between them.

The doorway into the church was circular-headed, but without any ornament, and most likely was a portion of the Norman doorway of the north aisle.

The tower was built within the nave, and upon three arches, all of which were filled up about fifty years ago to support the tower, which was deemed unsafe. The side arches seem to indicate that it was built while the aisle was standing on the south side; in the masonry that filled up the last bay of the arcade, is a square-headed window, now blocked up. It was most likely inserted to admit light into the belfry after the removal of the aisle.

The dates of the various parts of the church are probably as follows:—The Norman arches on the north side and the chancel arch about 1160 (Henry II.); the western portion of the chancel at the end of the thirteenth century, the period of transition from Early English to Decorated (Edward I.); the south aisle the middle of the fifteenth century (Edward III.); the tower and eastern portion of the chancel about 1500 (Henry VII.); both aisles removed and porch built 1594 (36th of Elizabeth).

* *Vide* Burton's History respecting Andrews, etc.

The church is now being restored to something of its original character. The Norman arches were cleared out this spring, but were found to hang so much to the north that it was deemed necessary to rebuild them. They were very carefully taken down and replaced exactly as they were before. The new aisle is of a transitional character, the side windows having two lights with a broad mullion between them, in front of which is a cylindrical shaft supporting the arch. The one at the east end is a pointed transition window, with broad mullion, and the head pierced with a trefoil.

The south side also is being restored. The arches have been taken down, but will be rebuilt exactly as they were before. The pillars are firm and straight, and only require the capital of one of them repairing.

As this portion of the church is not required for seats, the population of the village being small, and there being plenty of room in the nave and north aisle, it will be used as a baptistery, the font being placed in the eastern half of it, the western half being used as an atriolum or porch.

The chancel arch is to be restored, and a new three-light east window to be put in. The chancel walls which had been raised, probably when the old flat roof was put on, have been lowered, and there is to be a high pitched roof of stained pine. The seats will be of oak and the pavement of red and black tiles. Three pieces of stained glass windows of the fourteenth century, taken out of the church before commencing the restoration, are in the safe keeping of the Rev. Mr. Norris, the curate of the parish. Two of them consist of collections of different glass, probably the remains of windows placed in the church years gone by; some of the pieces are very rich, especially the rubies. The third piece is a coat of arms of the Bakepuiz family, who were formerly lords and patrons of Alexton, whose chief seat was (according to Burton) Barton Bakepuiz, co. Derby, and whose family adhered to the noble house of Ferrers, Earls of Derby, to whose deeds they appear often to be witnesses. The Bakepuiz family adopted (as was commonly the case in those days) the arms of their suzerain lord. They bore upon their escutcheon the following:—"Gules, two bars argent, three horse shoes in chief, or;" the three horse shoes being the emblems of the house of Ferrers.

In Burton's time, two other escutcheons adorned the windows of the church: 1. "Gules, two bars argent; three horse shoes in chief, or, with a mullet sable upon the uppermost bar." These being the arms of Hakluit, who held a separate manor at Alexton, 36 Elizabeth, who had also a separate manor at Hallaton. 2. The other coat of arms was "Gules, three poll axes, or;" the bearer of these unknown.

The manor has been held by various families, Bakepuiz, Blunt,

Andrewes, &c.: also, by Henry Lord Cromwell, and Lord Willoughby de Broke, of whom it was purchased in 1760. It is now in the possession of Henry William, Lord Berners, who is restoring the venerable church of Alexton in the most approved and admirable manner, the greater portion of the expense being borne by the noble lord.

The restoration of the church is placed under the able management of Mr. Millican, of Leicester.

November 24th, 1862.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby in the chair.

After general and financial business had been transacted, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected honorary members of the Society:—The Rev. Prebendary Trollope, M.A., F.S.A., Leasingham; Thomas Wright, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.; Edward Levien, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., British Museum.

The usual exhibition of antiquities, &c., comprised the following:

By Mr. North: Remains of Roman and other pottery, &c., lately discovered in making excavations preparatory to the erection of new buildings by Messrs. T. Crick and Son, upon ground behind their present premises in Southgate Street, Leicester. They consisted of pieces of Samian ware, having embossed patterns; the necks of several ampullæ or earthenware bottles, one of peculiar form, two sides of the neck having been pressed together by the finger and thumb of the potter when the clay was soft, and so two openings formed into the interior of the bottle, a large one near the handle for pouring the liquor into the bottle or jug, and a small one answering the modern spout, through which to pour it out. A small vessel of Samian ware quite plain, three inches in diameter and two inches in height, having the potter's mark, EPPN., impressed upon the bowl inside. In addition to these remains of Roman pottery, which were found about eighteen feet below the present surface, a piece of mediæval pottery and a small vessel of the ware known amongst collectors as the "Derby Biscuit China," the art of making which has been lost for many years, were turned up.* Not many yards to the north of the ground here indicated, a portion of a Roman pavement was discovered many years ago. Above these marks of the habitation of the Roman, and within three feet of the present surface, were found several wooden coffins containing human bones; respecting these Mr. North regretted he could give no information, they

* The Derby works were founded in 1751 by William Duesbury. The present proprietors are Messrs. Stephenson and Hancock.

having been again covered by the workmen before they had been inspected by any one competent to give an opinion as to their date or origin. Adjoining the ground where they were found stands a portion of an old building traditionally said to have belonged to the Guild of Corpus Christi, and to have been inhabited by the Guild priests. Could this burial ground have been connected with their establishment?

By Mr. Jacques, Birstall: A small hexagonal dish of Limoges Painted Enamel, about six inches in diameter and two inches in height. In the bowl appeared the Virgin and Child, with the inscription MARIA-MATER DEJ. This, like all the painted enamels for which Limoges was so famous, was upon copper, and belonged to that period of the art now known as "the Fine Style," the peculiarities of which mark the enamels of that school produced between about the years 1530 and 1580. The dish formerly belonged to the Strawberry-hill collection. To show different styles of the art of enamelling, Mr. Jacques further exhibited a small dish of Chinese enamelled ware very curious and rare, and a small box or casket—enamelled—of the French school of the time of Louis Quatorze; also a watch with enamelled face and elegantly chased gilt case of the same period as the last mentioned article (Louis XIV.). The works of the watch which appeared to be of a more recent date, had the name of the maker, *Ardriot a Paris*, 312.

Mr. Jacques further exhibited the Virgin and Child carved in ivory. The Virgin standing and holding in her arms the infant Saviour, who had fruit in his left hand, the right arm being unfortunately broken off. The figure of the Virgin was about seven inches high; her robes had been richly coloured, and her hair, which was loose and was flowing, had been golden; remains of colour and gold were still remaining. Judging from the seraph which aided in adorning the base upon which the Virgin stood, this exquisite carving would be the work of the end of the fifteenth or the beginning of the following century. It probably formerly belonged to a shrine or to a more ordinary tomb. Henry VII. commanded in his will that in the sides and both ends of his tomb, tabernacles should be graven and the same filled with images —Two small chasings in silver about two inches and a half square, the one representing the creation—the Deity standing with outstretched arms, whilst around were grouped various animals—the other, the bringing of the beasts of the fields and fowls of the air unto Adam to see what he would call them (Genesis ii. 19), where the Creator and Adam were represented with the creatures passing in review before them. The mark upon the silver [A] [B].

By Mr. G. C. Neale: A very beautiful carving of the Fall of our First Parents, upon which Mr. Neale read the following remarks:—The rule of our Society being absolute that all objects

exhibited at its meeting must be accompanied with a written description, relieves at least one of its members from the feeling of pretension or obtrusiveness in the observations which he may occasionally have to make. This morning I have great pleasure in exhibiting an ancient ivory carving, in alto-relievo, of Adam and Eve, at that crisis of their history denominated "The Fall." It would, I think, be an injustice to the school in which this interesting work was designed, or to the skill of the artist who executed it, to pass it by without especial notice. We have before us the first six verses of the third chapter of Genesis, not written in verse or painted on canvas, but carefully and artistically carved on ivory. The subject is of too sacred a character to be styled allegorical; we must classify it with the numerous Scripture historical works which emanated from the Italian, Flemish, and Spanish schools in mediæval times. Our first parents are here represented standing one on each side of the tree of knowledge, round the stem of which is coiled the fatal deceiver. Rich foliage and tempting fruit cluster in the boughs above, whilst death, symbolized by the human skull, lies significantly at the feet of the guilty pair. The serpent is rudely carved; the termination of the tail is obtuse and of a dart-like form, the head protruding from the tree is heavy and coarse, the mouth distended, apparently in the act of speaking. I am indebted to A. W. Franks, Esq., of the British Museum, for an opinion which I now give. He considers the work to be Flemish or Italian, and to date about the latter end of the sixteenth century. Mr. Franks having given his attention to carvings of an earlier period, did not like to speak confidently. I am inclined to think it is Flemish from the literal apple-like form of the fruit. The ebony frame, which is probably of a later period, is handsome and appropriate; the mouldings are good, and it is surmounted by two cherubims embracing. The size of the ivory section measures, after being squared, eight inches long, five broad, and two thick. We conclude from these dimensions that the animal to which it belonged must have been of colossal size. The figures have never been separated from the plaque, but are carved out of one solid piece. The architecture, if I may be allowed so to call it, the proportions and beauty of the human frame, the easy position of the figures, the contrast between the muscular, sharp, angular development of the male with the rounded and delicate form of the limbs of the female figure, are all details worthy of criticism and attention. The slight inclination and peculiar position of the heads indicate guilt and shame, and in the sad expression of the features we can trace sorrow and remorse. The female figure has unfortunately lost a hand, and the features have suffered several slight mutilations, not accidental, but the result of a vulgar morbid taste to injure and destroy what is beautiful and rare. We are constantly meeting repetitions on a smaller scale of the

maniacal destruction of the Barberini vase. There appears to be an innate mischievous propensity in some Englishmen to desecrate every work of art. We have seen valuable family pictures converted into targets for after-dinner sport; and whoever saw the walls of an ancient castle, or the shaft of a market cross, free from the traveller's autograph, or the monograms of the rustic lithographer? We rejoice to think that it is the pleasure and privilege of such societies as this to throw the mantle of protection over every work of art, and to screen from desecration the labours of those who, though dead, ever live in their works.

By Mr. Henry Goddard: Some additional Romano-British or Anglo Saxon remains, found near Butt Close Lane, Leicester, consisting of a circular ring fibula, with movable pin attached; a small oval fibula, the outer circle of which was formerly filled with enamel, or a vitreous paste, portions of which still remained (the pin of this was missing); portions of clay beads, and a bead of stone about an inch in diameter.

By Mr. J. F. Sarson: Plans and elevations in folio of Henry VII. Chapel, by L. N. Cottingham, architect, 1822.

By Mr. Firn: A piece of continental carving in wood, consisting of a group of eleven figures representing the entombment. It was made to hang upon a hook in a wall, there being a staple behind for that purpose. It was probably a Pieta. A model of the head and bust of a man in complete plate armour.

January 26th, 1863.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson in the chair.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs presented the audited accounts of the Society for the past year.

Mr. North (Hon. Sec.) presented the following

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1862.

Upon presenting a Report of the proceedings of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society for the past year (1862), the Committee have again the satisfaction of announcing the increasing strength of the Society as to numbers, there having been twenty-two members added to the member roll, and but few lost by death or withdrawal during that, the eighth year since its formation. This continued increase in the funds of the Society enabled the Committee, during the past year, to place in the hands of the members, in addition to the costly and profusely illustrated volume of the Associated Societies, the First Part of the Transactions of your own Society, comprising an account of its Meetings, and the Papers read during the two first years of its existence—1855 and 1856. The preservation, in this permanent way, of a record of our proceedings, has, your Committee venture to think, met with the approval of the members generally. The value of the publication is considerably enhanced by the illustrations, for several of which you are

indebted to the artistic and gratuitous pen of Mr. Joseph Goddard, architect; and to Mr. James Thompson and Mr. Bellairs you are also under obligation for further aid in that important department. It is strongly recommended that the publication be continued during the coming year, should the funds of the Society permit, as the only means of preserving Papers read before the members, and of keeping a register of the many extremely valuable and suggestive antiquities exhibited at the bi-monthly meetings.

These bi-monthly meetings, during the year just closed, have been of considerable interest, and the exhibition of antiquities well worthy the notice of the members: indeed, many of the articles shown were extremely valuable as real and tangible exponents of the past history of the county. The Roman remains exhibited, as might be expected in a locality where that powerful race were firmly established for so many years, have been numerous and noteworthy. We have seen silver and bronze coins found in Leicester—articles of domestic use and personal ornaments, and various specimens of pottery. The Anglo-Saxon race has been represented by articles found in Leicester, and by a discovery of great value and interest made at Melton Mowbray. [The Report proceeds to describe the discovery of these relics, as given at pp. 94-96 in this volume.]

The articles illustrative of the mediæval and later periods exhibited at our various bi-monthly meetings have, as usual, been of a varied and interesting character. We have been shown enamels from China, and from France, including an exquisite specimen of the Limoges school. Carvings in ivory and wood. The mediæval illuminator has been introduced to us in a French book of "Hours" of the fourteenth century: and the modern typographer has been presented in several specimens of various dates. The skill and fidelity of the pencil and the brush of several of our members have been evidenced by the exhibition at our meetings of drawings of Skeffington and Billesdon churches before restoration, of Latimer's house, and the ancient bridge at Thurcaston, and of a portion of the ancient stained glass at Stockerston Church, in this county. Mr. Lea, of Lutterworth, has shown specimens of his mural decorations, which have since, in the International Exhibition, added much to his reputation. To these might be added a long list of curiosities all more or less valuable, among which would figure a dyptych from the Eastern Church, and a skeleton from the Bow Bridge, Leicester, which did *not* once carry the mortal flesh of Richard III.

It was resolved early in the year that the annual excursion should be made to Bosworth Field; when it became known that the British Archæological Association intended holding their congress last year in this town, it was determined that the excursion should take place during the visit of that Association, in order that its members might be invited to join in the day's proceedings, and that it should commence from Leicester, so that Kirby Muxloe Castle and other places of interest on the way might be visited. The members of the Lincolnshire, and of the Northamptonshire Architectural Societies, and of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society were also invited to attend. [The Report proceeds to give a detailed account of the excursion, as reported, pp. 112-167 of this volume.]

The work of church building and restoration has been carried on in this county as elsewhere, during the past year with great vigour. The principal works completed in Leicester, are those in connection with the central church of the town—St. Martin's. The ancient tower and spire resting internally upon Norman piers and arches have been removed, and in their place Mr. Brandon has erected a fine Early English tower of very considerable magnitude and height; indeed, so much so as almost to appear out of proportion to the main building; it is, however, hoped at no distant period to complete the architect's plan by raising the pitch of the nave roof, and by the addition of a broach spire, which will not only add much to the beauty of the edifice, but will give symmetry to the proportions of the tower, which at present is naturally wanting. The tower rests internally upon four Early English arches of considerable altitude, with carved capitals, by which means the fine Perpendicular chancel and the north and south transepts are more distinctly seen from the nave. The north transept, which has been entirely rebuilt, and slightly lengthened, is a compound of various periods of architecture. In consequence of the increased height of the new tower arches, it was necessary to raise a portion of the roof of the south transept: this has been done by making a pitched roof finished by a gable, pierced by a cinquefoil window, and terminated externally by a cross at the limit of the first or small south aisle. Probably, a greater degree of boldness on the part

of the architect in this arrangement would have produced a better result; if the roof had been raised and the transeptal arrangements could have been carried out to the extreme south wall, so as to have included under it the first south window, which, from its size—being much larger than those in the same line of wall—almost points to this as its former position, the result would perhaps both externally and internally have been bolder, more graceful, and in every way more satisfactory. The optical illusion produced by the impinging of a portion of the mouldings of the western tower arch upon the stilt of the arch is extremely unfortunate.

Messrs. Skidmore and Co. have, in their usual effective manner, introduced standards and semi-standards for gas under the western tower arch, and within the chancel; and a carved eagle lectern in oak, executed by Mr. Barfield of Leicester, reflects great credit upon his taste and skill.

The fine church of St. Margaret's is also being gradually restored under the care of Mr. G. G. Scott. During the year 1862, the north side has been new cased, the jambs and arches of the windows restored, and new tracery inserted.

The most important work completed in the county, during the past year, was undoubtedly the restoration, under Mr. G. G. Scott, of the parish church (All Saints') of Loughborough. This fine Church, which for more than two years past has been undergoing complete renovation, now, with the exception of the tower, which is being restored by the munificence of Mr. W. Perry-Herrick, reappears in almost its pristine beauty. The galleries are swept away, and the high pews replaced by very good open oak seating. The foundations of the church have been underpinned and considerably strengthened; the masonry inside and out, including the pinnacles and battlements, the buttresses and parapets, thoroughly restored; the brick mullions in the windows replaced by stone tracery in character with the style of the jambs. The doorways have been rebuilt, care being taken to follow the details of the original entrance; the porch at the southern one is almost, if not entirely, new. The fittings of the chancel are restored, and a new east window inserted; in fact, the whole edifice has been thoroughly restored, or where absolutely necessary, rebuilt, and that in no niggardly spirit, for the contract amounted to £7,200. The entire work will, your Committee think, give great satisfaction to those members of this Society especially who attended the general meeting held at Loughborough in the year 1852, and saw the church in its then unsightly condition; and it must be a pleasure to the members generally to find that the advice then given to the inhabitants by the spokesman of the Society—the Rev. Canon James—in his Paper upon the church, was so well received, and has eventually been so thoroughly acted upon with such extremely satisfactory results.

The restoration of the small church of Welby, which for some time past has been in the hands of Mr. R. W. Johnson, of Melton Mowbray, was completed last year. The later works consisted of new fittings for church and chancel, the insertion of a new east window, the lowering of the ground round the building, and the thorough draining of the foundations.

Great improvements have been effected in Kibworth church by the erection of a new roof to the nave, and by forming a tower arch from the nave, and thus showing the western window, which has been somewhat lengthened to meet the requirements of the change.

The tower of North Kilworth church has been restored to the belfry windows; above the windows, the tower and spire were taken down and rebuilt, the latter being raised about ten feet higher than its predecessor. The work has been carefully done by Mr. Firn, of Leicester, under the architectural guidance of Mr. Jos. Clarke, of London. Mr. Firn has also been engaged in pointing and otherwise restoring the external walls of Narborough church. This has led to the restoration of an exceedingly interesting Early English priest's door on the south side of the chancel of that church. The whole of the original stone work of this doorway is now on Mr. Firn's premises, where it is placed in position, and is well worth a visit from those members specially interested in Gothic architecture.

The restoration of Stoughton church referred to in the last Report, is still progressing. During the past year the north aisle with its fine range of Decorated windows, has been taken down and literally restored, every bit of old stone being again placed in its old position, excepting in cases where new was a necessity. A Perpendicular clerestory is being added to the nave, a new south porch is to take the place of the present debased one, and probably by the end of the present year the whole church will—through the liberality of Major the Hon. Powys-Keck—be

thoroughly and, by Mr. Firn, carefully restored. The neighbouring church of Oadby presents a sad contrast to this. The churchwardens there have had the bad taste and will learn the eventual bad economy of daubing a portion of the external walls with stucco.

The chancel of Hinckley church is now being restored under the guidance of Mr. Gillett, and in other parts of the county works of restoration of various degrees of importance are being carried on. In addition to these, your Committee would recommend to your notice the extremely elegant Gothic school house now being erected from the designs of Messrs. Goddard and Son, near Westcotes, in this town; and they cannot but express a hope that our National architecture, having again gained its supremacy in ecclesiastical buildings, being now engaged in a most successful competition with the exotic styles in scholastic and kindred edifices, will, ere long, claim its long lost inheritance as the most fitting style for our dwelling houses and domestic erections.

The rapidity with which the work of church restoration progresses is almost equalled by the rapidity with which the glazing of the past three centuries is giving way to the introduction of stained glass into the windows of our churches. Whilst speaking well for the liberality of our age, and demonstrating the earnest desire now so happily prevalent to render the Houses of God in some degree worthy of the holy purposes for which they were built, it must be confessed with regret that the art of glass staining does not appear to progress towards that excellence which the present great demand for the article ought to command. There have been very many windows in our Leicester and County churches filled with stained glass during the past year; and, without speaking of any one of these with special praise or dispraise, your Committee think a reference to them (with but few exceptions) will show that the art of glass staining is still very far from the zenith of its perfection in England. There is, however, one instance to which your Committee can refer with unmixed satisfaction, not so much with regard to the work itself—though that will bear a comparison without injury, with most modern productions of a similar character—as to the cause of its insertion, and the munificence and noble heartedness it commemorates. It is needless to remind you how much the town of Leicester, and especially the parishioners of St. Mary's, are indebted to Mr. Thomas Nevinson, in the restoration of their now most beautiful church; and it has been a sincere pleasure to very many members of this Society to contribute, through your Secretary, towards the cost of filling the eastern chancel windows of that church with the best stained glass Mr. Wailes could produce, to be a lasting memorial of the gratitude of his contemporaries to Mr. Nevinson, not alone for the pecuniary sacrifice he has made, but more than that,—for the untiring attention and correct architectural taste brought to bear upon the work, which has rendered it not only beautiful to the eye of the uninitiated, but a lesson to the architectural student.

Resolved, that the statement of Accounts and the Report be adopted.

The Committee and officers for the ensuing year were elected, and other business transacted.

The following gentlemen were elected Presidents of the Society:—Sir A. B. C. Dixie, Bart., Geoffrey Palmer, Esq., and W. U. Heygate, Esq., M.P.

Mr. North reported that he had received letters acknowledging honorary membership from the Rev. Prebendary Trollope, F.S.A., and Mr. E. Levien, F.S.A.

The following gentlemen were elected Members:—Mr. W. T. Fry, Exeter College, Oxford; the Rev. A. Holmes, Melton Mowbray; Mr. John Groocock, and Mr. Firn, both of Leicester.

Mr. R. W. Johnson, Architect, Melton, exhibited a drawing of the proposed restoration of the village cross at Frisby-on-the-Wreake, which was highly commended; but certain alterations in

the height of the shaft, and in the form of the cross upon the apex were suggested. Mr. Johnson also by way of explanation of his drawing contributed the following Paper upon

TOWN CROSSES,

which was, in his absence, read by Mr. North:—

The subject of "Town Crosses" is open to much enquiry. Without going very closely into the matter, I have found much to interest any one who takes pleasure in rambling amongst the relics of the past—not, however, so much from the erections themselves, as from the associations which are connected with them. They seem to divide themselves into three distinct heads or classes: Market Crosses, Memorial Crosses, and Town or Village Crosses. Of the antiquity of the first-named we have plenty of proof as far back as the thirteenth century, and I need only quote that in existence at Higham Ferrers, the capitals and mouldings of which are decidedly the work of that period. The form of the Market Cross is generally polygonal, with an open archway niche on two of its sides. The really good specimens to be found are few. More frequently, structures of a debased character, some surmounted by a kind of dome, seem to have replaced the original ones. Evidently, the centre or the principal part of the town was used as the site of these erections, and some of the principal historical events are connected with them. The illustrated descriptions to be met with give but little idea of the style (there were no Le Keux or Jewitts in those early days) but the remains are curious, and from many of the occurrences which are depicted in manuscripts and other ancient works, being found in connection with the Town Crosses, it is clear that they were looked upon with a degree of importance, if not of veneration.

In an engraving of "Cheapside," with the procession of Mary-de-Medicis on her visit to Charles I., the most prominent object is the cross which formerly existed there, and in a curious print in the Pennant collection in the British Museum, is seen the same cross very similar in detail undergoing destruction at the hands of the Puritans. A cross also existed in front of St. Paul's, which in addition to other purposes was used for preaching from. A drawing in the Pepysian Library shows this to have been a heavy low building, which it states was erected in 1450, and *remodelled* in 1595. A Market Cross existed in Edinburgh in Argyle's time, and his execution is shown in a drawing of the period as taking place close to the Cross. One more example near home. The High Cross which formerly existed in Leicester was erected in what must then have been the principal part of the town, for we find that during the Siege of Leicester in 1645, "Gallowtree Gate and several other entrances having been carried, by half-past one

the defenders were driven from every part of the fortifications except the Newarke; but the garrison and townspeople having retired to the Market Place, High Cross Street continued the struggle for nearly an hour longer." I believe a Cross in the pavement still marks the site of the ancient High Cross, one of the reputed pillars of which, in its debased form, is preserved in front of the Crescent in King Street.

Of Memorial Crosses I need say but little,—another member of this Society having formerly read a paper on the subject. I will only quote those beautiful structures built to commemorate the lamented Queen Eleanor at each of the places where her body rested in its journey back to London; the last of which was, I believe, built at the then village of Charing. The finest of them is at Waltham, and an attempt at its renovation rather than restoration caused much discussion,—the plea being that however faithfully the old work might be copied, it does at best but show how well we can imitate the original, and affords very equivocal evidence of the state of the arts in the reign of Edward I., and this argument will bear out in all matters of restoration. In the present day we are too apt to lose sight of the remains of the ancient work, and by the introduction of novelties to entirely destroy the character of the original. There is a charm about the moss-covered stone which is not appreciated by all architects; but the object should be, not to renew them by putting a fresh stone in the place of every old one that is in any degree mutilated, but to preserve them from further dilapidation, and to save every ancient feature that can possibly be preserved; restoring such parts only where it is indispensably necessary to ensure the safety and durability of the structure.

I think we may include the wayside Crosses amongst those intended to memoralise individuals, although time, that leveller of all distinctions, has effaced every trace which will identify them with those whom they were intended to commemorate. On the continent these Crosses are of constant occurrence, more frequently pointing out the place of some dark deed, and the resting place of those who have met a violent death, coupled with the inscription, "Pray for the soul of A.B."

Lastly of Village Crosses, the remains of which are so often to be met with, forming as they do, even in their ruin, pleasing objects. They generally consist of a few steps, by some called a Calvary, and a tall shaft with sometimes a few mouldings to form a base, and no doubt all had originally a Cross on the top. In some instances they had small niches and sculptured foliage. With but very few exceptions they shared the fate of almost everything else in the shape of a Cross during the Puritanic dispensation. In the journal of one U. Dowsing, January 6th, 1643, he writes, "We broke down about an hundred superstitious pictures, and 200 had been broke down before I came, we took away two Popish In-

scriptions with *ora pro nobis*, and we beat down a great stoneing Cross on the top of the Church."

What the Puritans began, time and neglect have in most instances completed, and nothing but a well worn base is now generally to be found. Some have fared rather better, and the tall shaft still rears its head though almost tottering, for the Cross is generally the resort of idlers and children, who day by day reduce the structure piecemeal, threatening the downfall of the shaft, and in time complete annihilation of the Cross. Such is the case with the Cross at Frisby on the Wreake in this county, which has led to these hasty remarks; but thanks to the spirit of restoration which is so strong in our land, the principal inhabitants of the village, determining that it shall not be consigned to oblivion, have commenced a subscription to restore it, and they intend to protect it from further violence by a palisade fence; this last may by some be thought an innovation, but any attempt to restore the Cross and leave it exposed would be useless. It is therefore hoped the innovation will be pardoned for its utility. The base is much decayed and whole stones have been removed, these will be carefully replaced, and as there are no traces of the Cross I have been led to a decision as to the period, from the moulding which is worked up the angles of the shaft.

The matter is a small one to bring before the Society, but as there are several other existing examples in the county fast mouldering away, it may lead to their rescue, by which in addition to forming a pleasing feature in the landscape, they may lead the wanderer and passer-by to bestow a thought on that Holy Faith of which they are the symbol, and perchance prove a stepping stone to God's house and the enhancement of his glory.

Mr. North exhibited a design by Mr. Lea, of Lutterworth, for the decoration of the eastern wall of the chancel of S. Martin's Church, Leicester.*

Mr. G. H. Nevinson produced a small circular carving in ivory, two inches and a half in circumference, representing a combat between armed men and dragons, probably intended to represent a conflict between good and evil spirits. This carving was of an early period, apparently Norman. The same gentleman also exhibited a bronze celt, four inches in length.

Mr. North further exhibited a very fine Roman gold coin, recently found near Melton Mowbray, upon which he read the following short memoir:—The very beautiful gold Roman coin I have the pleasure of placing upon the table is entrusted to my care by Mr. Thomas Hickson, of Melton Mowbray, who has long been a member of this Society. It was found a few weeks ago, about two miles and a half to the south-east of that town, and with

* Since adopted and completed.

it, or near to it, the two bronze coins I also exhibit. The gold coin is a solidus of Valentinianus I. (A.D. 364-375), and for a description of it you are indebted to the Rev. Assheton Pownall, a learned member of the Numismatic Society, who has compared it with a similar coin in the British Museum, and though he finds the Museum coin in equally fine condition, yet the workmanship of the Melton coin is superior. The legend on the obverse round the profile of the Emperor is DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG. On the reverse is a figure of the Emperor holding a "victory" in his left hand. In his right he carries the "labarum," surmounted by the Greek letters X.P., the sacred monogram of Christ. The legend here is RESTITVTOR REIPVBLICAE, whilst the mint mark is KONST AV., and this constitutes an interesting question in the examination of this coin, inasmuch as until lately it was customary, Mr. Pownall informs me, to assign coins with this mint mark to Constantinople, to the puzzling of some numismatists, who noticed the close resemblance of their workmanship to the coins of the French mints. It has, however, recently been noticed that when Constantine I. rebuilt part of the town of Arles, he gave it the name of Constantina Augusti, and so coins struck there bore the mint mark of the coin now under inspection, which had formerly been confounded with that of Constantinople. The larger brass coin, found as before stated in the near neighbourhood of this, belongs to the Emperor Allectus, who was Emperor in England, A.D., 293-296, and it was, in all probability, coined in this country. The smaller brass coin is quite undecypherable.

Mr. James Jacques exhibited a curious Venetian glass scent bottle, in the form of a female's head.

Mr. Henry Goddard showed some very valuable antiquities from the Island of Rhodes, which he explained in the following notes:—The Necropolis of Camirus, in the Island of Rhodes, has been explored for several years, under the auspices of the Foreign Office, by Mr. A. Biliotti, British Vice-Consul of Rhodes, and the discoveries which have resulted are of the highest interest in reference to the history of Greek art at the earliest period to which it can be historically traced back. A large quantity of fictile ware, of the most archaic character and in the finest condition, has been discovered in tombs, together with gold ornaments, glass, porcelain, terra cottas, and bronzes, nearly all the same early epoch. The objects exhibited, consisting of two small vases, with warriors and shields and hieroglyphics painted upon them; two small porcelain blue and black hawks, and a beautifully irridated lachrymatory of glass, were the work of the earliest Greek colonists of Rhodes. The date of these objects may be fixed by internal evidence, to a period ranging B.C. 600 to 400. The cities of Camirus, Jalysus, and Lindus are stated to have been the three most ancient in the

island of Rhodes, and to have been partially abondoned when the capital, Rhodus, was founded B.C. 404.

The Rev. John Fisher exhibited a Pardon of Alienation, dated 9 November 7 Jac. 1 (1609), to John Allen and another, relating to certain lands in Leicestershire.

March 30th, 1863.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Resolved, that the Annual General Summer Meeting for 1863 be held at Kibworth.

The following gentlemen were elected Members:—The Rev. T. Drake, Mountsorrel; and the Rev. J. T. Beresford, Precentor of Peterborough Cathedral.

Mr. R. W. Johnson, Architect, Melton Mowbray, exhibited through Mr. North, elevations, ground plan, and a perspective drawing of five labourers' cottages recently erected by him upon the estate of W. A. Pochin, Esq., in the Parish of Rearsby, in this county, which, with the very convenient fittings, were much commended, with the exception of the use of soft water tubs, which was condemned as tending much to dampness in the foundation and walls from the leakage and overflow of water. It was thought that the cistern originally marked in the plan would have been preferable.

Mr. North exhibited an anastatic drawing, by Mr. Joseph Goddard, of the Blue Boar Inn, known as King Richard's House, formerly standing in Leicester, from correct architectural drawings and measurements made by Mr. Henry Goddard before its destruction in 1836.

Mr. George Henton exhibited, through the Secretary, a

HALF GUINEA TICKET
To admit ONE PERSON to the
Fifth Aerial Voyage of Mr. Blanchard's
AIR BALLOON and FLYING BOAT,
in which he will ascend
With an AMERICAN GENTLEMAN.
1784.
Blanchard.

Mr. North observed that Francis Blanchard, a Frenchman, the issuer of this ticket, was the first in England who made an aerostatic voyage of any considerable length. He, in company with Dr. Jefferies, an American physician,—most probably the

"American gentleman" mentioned on the ticket, crossed the channel from Dover to Calais, 7th January, 1785, for which exploit Blanchard was rewarded by the King of France with a pension of 1200 francs.

Mr. James Thompson sent for exhibition a sword bearing upon the blade, close to the hilt, in Old English characters:

Oliver Cromwell to Capn. H. Mason, 1649.

The hilt of the sword and its blade too (unless it had been much ground down) clearly showed it to be of a much later period. The hilt being like those found upon comparatively modern Scotch swords.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson produced a bunch of keys formerly belonging to Fotheringay Castle. The largest was $5\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length, and had a triple plume of feathers between the initials F.C., and on the other side the date 1586. On the bunch was a curious iron instrument, consisting of turnscrews and implements for cleaning the locks and keys.

Mr. Thompson communicated to the Society the recent curious discovery of links or bars of gold in the parish of Mountfield, Sussex, and the proceedings now being taken relating thereto, which will tend to elucidate the law as to Treasure Trove.

The Rev. J. H. Hill read the following

GENEALOGICAL NOTICES UPON THE FAMILY OF TAILBOIS.

Amongst the Norman families who came over with William the Conqueror was Ivo de Tailbois, brother of Fulk, Earl of Anjou. He was made Baron of Kendal and Lord of Holland, and participated very largely in the advantages which resulted from the Conquest of England. The Croyland historians style him Comes, and the old chroniclers state that he was a candidate in the year 1075 for the earldoms of Northampton and Huntingdon, Earl Waltheolf being dead. This celebrated man married Lucia, the sister of Harold's Queen, who was previously the widow of Griffith ap Llewellyn, King of North Wales, whose brothers were Edwin, Earl of March, and Morcar, Earl of Northumberland, and whose father was Algarus, Earl of Leicester. Earls Edwin and Morcar took to plundering in the open country and the woods (*Henr. of Hunt.*), threw off their allegiance to the Norman Conqueror, and retired into the isle of Ely with Hereward and Bishop Elwyne. They were proscribed as irreclaimable rebels, and William I. endowed the wife of Ivo de Tailbois with their confiscated estates, and thus Ivo became proprietor of their vast estates in Lincolnshire and other counties. De Tailbois was Lord of Spalding, in Lincolnshire, where he held his court with great pomp and princely splendour, adding very much to the revenues of the monastery

there. He had several quarrels with the Abbot of Croyland, an account of which may be found in the *History of Ingulphus*, amongst the *Scrip. Antiq.*, p. 49, 189, and in *Pet. Bles. Cont. Ingulph* 125. He gave all the churches in his Barony of Kendal, and that of Kirkby St. Stephen, to the Abbey of St. Mary's, York, and he gave in the year 1085 the church of Spalding to the Priory of St. Nicholas, Angers. This distinguished Norman died of a paralytic stroke about the year 1114, and was buried in the Priory Church of Spalding. He bore for his arms—Argent, a saltire, on a chief gules three escallops of the first. It is said in Domesday Book that he left no issue, and Ingulphus (not a very reliable authority) has made out that he had only one child, and that a daughter, but this is clearly wrong, since the Cockersand Register gives him both son and grandson. By the Countess Lucy he had a son named Eldred or Ethred, and a daughter named Lucy. He had also by his Countess, Beatrix, wife of Ribald of Middleham, brother to Alan, Earl of Richmond, and Matilda, wife of Hugh Fitz Ranulph, brother to Ranulph, Earl of Chester. Eldred became the second Baron of Kendal. Lucy was admitted to the inheritance of her father's lands, in Lincolnshire, for which she paid a fine of four hundred marks of silver. Her first husband was Roger de Roumare, whose only child on record is William, afterwards Earl of Lincoln, who highly distinguished himself after the violent spirit of the age, and made his prowess and influence very sensible both at home and abroad *(Ord. Vit. Chron.)*. Her second husband was Ranulph de Briquesard, surnamed Meschines, the younger, who became Earl of Chester after the death of his cousin Richard, who in 1120 was drowned in the Blanch Nef, together with King Henry's son. By the second marriage Lucy had Ranulph Gernons, Earl of Chester; William, Earl of Cambridge; Alice, wife of Richard Fitzgilbert, ancestor of the Clares, Earls of Gloucester and Hereford; and Agnes, wife of Robert de Grandmesnil. It appears that the Countess Lucy survived her second husband, and in her second widowhood she confirmed the manor of Spalding to the monks of that place.

The third Baron of Kendal was Ketel, son of Edred, to whom William Meschines, brother to Ranulph Meschines, Lord of Cumberland, gave several places in that county, and among the rest, a place which received from him the name of Kelton or Ketelton. He gave to the abbot and convent of St. Mary's, York, the church of Morland, and two carucates there, which grant was confirmed by Athelwold and Hugh, Bishops of Carlisle *(Reg. of Wetherell)*. Ketel de Tailbois had three sons, Gilbert, the eldest, who succeeded as Baron of Kendal; the second son, Orme, was founder of a family not yet extinct. Orme had a son Gospatrick, whose son Thomas was the founder of Shap Abbey (Westmoreland), and from him are descended, in a regular succession of the male line,

the family of the Curwens, of Wirkinton. In the record of a plea, 6 Edward I., it is stated that Gospatric, son of Orme, son of Ketel, gave Salter, in Cumberland, to the abbey of St. Mary's, York. The name of Ketel's other son was William, as appears from his attestation of his grant of the church of Morland, aforesaid, to the said abbey, from which also it appears that his wife's name was Christiana, "Testibus Christiana, uxore mea, Willielmo filio meo, et multis aliis."

The inheritance of the Barony of Kendal descended next to Gilbert, great grandson of Ivo de Tailbois, whose son, William de Tailbois, was the first who by royal license took the name of De Lancastre. He married Gundreda, Countess of Warwick, daughter of William Earl de Warren. This William was a great benefactor to many religious houses, St. Bees, Furness, Cockersand, &c., and he founded the priory of Conyngshed.

The second William de Lancastre was steward to King Henry II., and was son of the preceding. He married Helwise de Stuteville, by whom he had only one daughter, also named Helwise. The said William gave the king thirty marks that he might have a duel with Gospatrick, son of Orme, which sum was accounted for in the Exchequer by the sheriff Elias, son of Gilmichael. He gave to one Hugh, the hermit, a certain place called Askeleross and Croc, to look to his fishing in the river Loyn. Helwise de Lancastre was married to Gilbert, son of Roger Fitz Reinfrid, who was one of the judges of the King's Bench, and also Justice Itinerant and Sheriff of Sussex. King Richard granted to him (1 Richard) the whole forest of Westmoreland, of Kendal, and Furness, to hold to him and his heirs as fully and freely as William de Lancastre and Nigel de Albini had held the same. Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid sided so far with the rebellious barons in the time of King John, that he was forced to pay a fine of twelve thousand marks (17 King John). By this fine he obtained a pardon. It appears that his son William de Lancastre, Ralph de Aincourt, and Lambert de Bussy, had been imprisoned, having been taken by the king in Rochester Castle, and they were freed upon the payment of the fine, but he was obliged to give hostages for his future fidelity to the king, viz., these, Benedict son of Henry de Redman, the son of Roger de Kirkby, his daughter's son, the son of William de Windlesore, the daughter of Ralph de Aincourt, the daughter of Roger de Burton, the daughter of Walter de Stirkland, the daughter of Richard de Copeland, and the son of Gilbert de Lancastre. Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid died 4 Henry III., leaving one son and three daughters.

William de Lancastre, the third, son of Gilbert Fitz Reinfred, by his wife Helwise de Tailbois, daughter of William de Lancastre the second. He took the name of De Lancastre, together with the inheritance from his mother. He married Agnes de Brus, and died without issue, when his two sisters succeeded to the property.

William de Lancastre was Justice Itinerant for the county of Cumberland (10 Henry V.) and Sheriff of Lancashire (18 to 30 Henry V.). For the health of his soul and Agnes his wife, he gave to the monks of Furness one boat, to be used on the Wynender Mere, for the carriage of timber and other commodities, and one other boat to fish in that mere. In 11 Henry III. there was a dispûte between Robert de Veteripont, sheriff of the county, and William de Lancastre, Lord of Kendall, concerning suit to be made to the county court by the said William and his tenants. And by a fine levied in that year, William grants suits for his lands to the courts by himself or his attorney, and if any pleas be attached touching the tenants of William, whereof by the law the barons ought to have their courts, then upon demand thereof he shall have it; Martin Pateshull, John Saul, William de Insula, and Richard being then Justices Itinerant. By his will he bequeathed his body to be buried in the quire of Furness Abbey, near the tomb of his grandfather, William de Lancastre. Arms arg. two bars gules, in a quarter gules, a lion pass, or.

The male line failing in William de Lancastre, we must pass to his three sisters:—1, Helwisia, married to Peter de Brus; 2, Alicia, married to William de Lyndsay; 3, Serota, married to Alan de Multon, who died *sine prole.* Alice, the sister of William de Lancastre before named, was married to William de Lindesay, and brought with her one moiety of the Barony of Kendal. They had a son, Walter de Lyndesay, who died 56 Henry III. This Walter had a son and heir called Walter de Lyndesay, who died 2 Edward II., leaving a son and heir, William de Lyndesay, who left one child, Christian de Lyndesay, who was married to Ingelram de Coucy. They had a son William, born in France, who, after his father's death, inherited the French estates, his father being Lord of Coucy in France. They had a second son, Ingelram, born in England, without any heir of his body, and his brother being an alien, and thereby not capable to inherit, the estate escheated to the Crown. William de Coucy had two sons, Ingelram and William; the king granted to the latter his grandmother Christian's estates in England, but he dying without issue, the estate again fell to the crown.

Helwise, the next sister of the last William de Lancastre, Baron of Kendal, was married to Peter de Brus, son of Peter de Brus, son of Adam de Brus, whose grandfather, Robert de Brus, came into England with William the Conqueror, unto which Robert, William I. gave forty-three lordships in the East and West Ridings of York, and fifty-one in the North Riding. Robert de Brus, who was competitor with John Baliol for the crown of Scotland, was of the younger branch of this family. Peter de Brus had by his wife —1, Peter de Brus; 2, Margaret, married to Robert de Roos; 3, Agnes, married to Walter de Fauconberge; 4, Lucy, married to

Marmaduke de Thweng; 5, Laderina, married to John de Bella Aqua (Bellew).

Peter de Brus succeeded to a moiety of the barony of Kendal, upon his mother's death. He confirmed to the free burghers in his moiety of Kirkby, in Kendal, all the liberties and free customs which they had of the gift of William de Lancastre, his uncle. In 44 Henry III. he granted to William Pickering the manor of Killington. He died 7 Edward without any heir of his body, his sisters before mentioned being coheirs.

The arms of Brus were,—Or, a saltire gules, a chief of the last. Upon the death of Peter de Brus, a partition of the Lancastre and Brus estates was made amongst the four sisters.

Margaret had for her share Kendal Castle, with all Kendal which had been Peter's. She was married to Robert de Roos, younger son of Robert Lord Roos, by his wife Isabel, daughter of the king of Scots. The elder brother was William Lord Roos, of Hanlake, father of John Lord Roos, father of William Lord Roos of Belvoir, one of whose daughters and coheirs, Eleanor, was married to Sir Robert Manners, ancestor of the present Duke of Rutland. Robert de Roos died 2 Edward I., before her brother Peter. Indeed, Margaret was living in 29 Edward I., and her son William de Roos died probably before his mother. For the inquisitiones post mortem bears date in 3 Edward II., and in that year we find that Margaret de Roos held the manor of Melchanthorp. She had a grandson, William de Roos, who in 2 Edward III. obtained a charter for a market at Stavely, and a fair yearly on the eve day and morrow of St. Luke the Evangelist. Thomas de Roos was son of William de Roos, and he died in 14 Richard II. This Thomas had a son called John, who died before his father, leaving an infant daughter, which daughter was afterwards married to William Parr, Knight. Arms of Roos,—Gules, three water budgets, sable.

Elizabeth, heiress of the family of Roos, died before her husband, William de Parr, and he died 6 Henry IV., and was succeeded by his son and heir, John Parr, Knight, who did not long survive his father, for the inquisition after his death bears date 9 Henry IV. He was succeeded by his son, Thomas Parr, who died 4 Edward IV., leaving two sons, William and John, the latter of whom received the sheriffwick of Westmoreland from King Edward IV., Henry Lord Clifford having been deprived of the same, because his father had sided with the House of Lancaster in the then civil wars, which king granted unto the said John and William Parr all the lands of Sir W. Bellingham, who was attainted upon the same account. Sir W. Parr, Knight, son and heir of Thomas Parr, Knight, married Elizabeth, sister of Lord Fitzhugh. He was made Knight of the Garter by Edward IV.; he was knight of the shire for Westmoreland, 6 and 12 Edward IV.; he had two sons, Thomas, the elder,

and William Parr, Knight, the younger. Sir Thomas Parr succeeded his father. He was master of the Wards, and comptroller to King Henry VIII. He married Maud, daughter of Sir Thomas Green. By her he had one son and two daughters. The eldest daughter, Katharine, who now lies buried in Peterborough Cathedral, was married first to Edward Borough; secondly to John Nevil, Lord Latimer; thirdly to King Henry VIII., being his sixth wife; and lastly, to Lord Seymour, of Sudely, one of the uncles of Edward VI. She died 2 Edward VI. Sir Thomas Parr died 9 Henry VIII. He was buried in Blackfriars, London, and his son William succeeded him. It does not appear that William was ever knighted. His steward's accounts, in 24 Henry VIII., style him only William Parr, Esq. In 30 Henry VIII., he was created Lord Parr and Roos of Kendal, and in 36 Henry VIII. he was made Baron of Hart, county Northampton. He married Helena, daughter of Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex, and received his father-in-law's title, and finally, in 1 Edward VI., he became Marquis of Northampton. In 1 Queen Mary, he was attainted of high treason of aiding Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and Lady Jane Grey, whereby his estate became forfeited to the crown, but he was soon after pardoned, and the estate restored to him. He died in 13 Elizabeth, 1571, and was buried in the Collegiate Church at Warwick, where his body was dug up in the reign of James I. to make room for the burial of another person. It was found perfect, with the skin entire, dried to the bones, with rosemary and bays lying in the coffin fresh and green *(Dugdale)*. By an inquisition taken at Leicester, April 12, same year, the jurors find that he died without any heir of his body. Arms,—Argent, two barulets azure, within a bordure engrailed sable.

Katharine, who married Henry VIII., had no issue, and Ann, her sister, who was married to William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, was also childless.

Lucy was the third sister and coheir of Peter de Brus; she was married to Marmaduke de Thweng, Lord of Kelton Castle and Thweng. They had a son Marmaduke de Thweng, who died in 10 Edward II., seized, as the inquisition says, of the fourth part of the barony of Kendal. He was succeeded by his son William de Thweng, who in 9 Edward III., obtained a grant of free warren in Stavely. He died in 14 Edward III., and was succeeded by his cousin Robert de Thweng, who died in 18 Edward III. He was succeeded by his brother Thomas de Thweng, having his three sisters coheirs. Lucy, the eldest of the three, was married to Marmaduke de Lumley, who was succeeded by Ralph de Lumley, who had a son Thomas de Lumley, who died without issue, and was succeeded by his uncle, John de Lumley, Knight, who died in 10 Henry V., leaving his son Thomas, then under age.

William de Lancastre, the third and last of that name in the

direct line, died without issue, leaving, as before stated, his sisters coheirs. Yet William had a brother named Roger, for William mentions him in one of his grants to Furness Abbey, "Teste Rogero meo fratre;" from hence it may be presumed that this Roger was a brother of the half blood. The registry of Furness Abbey states this,—"Rogerus bastardus frater Wilhelmi." Now this circumstance is not mentioned in any of the pedigrees, which derive the name of the family of Lancastres from Sir Roger de Lancastre, which name and family flourished for many years in the county of Westmoreland, at Ridal, Sockbridge, Howgill Castle, and other places, and by intermarriage was related to many of the most considerable families in the county, and is not yet extinct, many of the name yet remaining, although the estates have changed hands.

Roger de Lancastre held the manor of Barton by the gift of William his brother. And in 3 Edward I. he obtained of that king a confirmation to him of the forest of Ridal. He was sheriff of Lancashire in 49 Henry III. He married Phillippa, one of the four daughters and coheirs of Hugh de Bolebeck, in the county of Northumberland, and died 19 Edward I., leaving a son.

Sir Roger de Lancastre, of Barton, Westmoreland. Arms,—two bars gules, on a canton of the second a lion pass: gard: or.

John de Lancastre, who was summoned in 22 Edward I., amongst other persons of rank, to attend at Portsmouth well provided with horse and arms, and thence to sail with King Edward to France. He was engaged (25 Edward I.) in the expedition against Scotland, being in the retinue of Brian Fitzalan, of Bedal, in Yorkshire. He was summoned to Parliament from that time to 3 Edward II., and died in 8 Edward III.

John de Lancastre, of Howgill, was the next heir male of this family, and he had a son William, who had also a son William, who had a son called John, who also had a son called John, who died without issue male, in the reign of King Henry VI., leaving four daughters:—1, Christian, married to Sir Robert de Harrington, Knight; 2, Isabel, married to Sir Thomas Fleming, of Coniston, Knight; 3, Margaret, married to Sir Matthew Whitfield, Knight; and 4, Elizabeth, married to Robert de Crakenthorp, Esq.

In 14 Edward I. Cliburn Talebois, Westmoreland, derived its name from the owner. In the partition of the Veteripont inheritance between the daughters and coheirs of the last Robert, the homage and service of Lucas Talebois were assigned to Idonea, the youngest sister, for Cliburn. In 8 Edward II., Lucas Talebois held of Robert de Clifford one moiety of Cliburn. In 23 Edward II. Walter de Talebois held the manor of Cliburn Taleboys. In 15 Richard II., Walter de Tailbois held the same manor. Langton, in Westmoreland, was purchased by Robert de Veteripont of Ada, daughter of John de Taillebois, and widow of Robert de Cleveland.

In the Inquisitiones post mortem, temp. Edward II., we find:

Will'us Taylboys ch'r pro Henr' fil Hippall and Tossan, mag. 200 acr terr &c. Northumb.

Will'us Tailboys

Hippall man'
Bykerton man'
Tyrwhit man'
Wait vill'
Tossan Mag'
} Northumb'.

Escaet' de Ann 10 Edw 2nd.

Lucas Taleboys, Hippal man Northumb.

Edward III. Henry Taleboys et Alianora uxor ejus.

Hippall man' dimid'.
Tossan vil' dim'
Falulez placea terr'
Bykerton man'
Warton vil'
Nether Tyrwhit
Tossan' Mag'
Fletewarton et'
Scraperton
Shetesbanks
Newehall
Foxden

The above named Henry Taleboys married Elizabeth, granddaughter of Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus. (The records name this lady Eleanor.) From this marriage issued one son, named Walter Tailbois, and in him the barony of Kyme became vested, the family of Umfraville having failed in an heir.

Harbottle Castle with the franchise of Redesdale was inherited by Walter Taleboys in 17 Henry VI., son of Henry Taleboys from the Umfravilles, the descendant of Walter Talboys. Sir W. Talboys forfeited it after the battle of Hexham. It was, as it is said, "the Lord Talbusses inheretance, and geven the prence in exchange, for that it was so mete an house for the service," &c. It belonged to the crown in 1567.

In 9 Henry IV., William de Hooton in Foresta, and William de Bolton quit claim to Sir William de Sandford, Knight, of all their right which they had in the manor of Askham, with the mill there and other lands elsewhere. Sir William died before his mother, 5 Henry V., for in that year is a receipt for rent given by her to his executors, viz.—William de Hooton in Foresta de Inglewood, Hugh Salkeld in Rossgill, John de Lancastre de Brampton, and William de Wybergh.

In 5 Henry VIII. a contract was entered between William de Wibergh and Geoffrey Lancastre of Melcanthorp, Gent., that

Thomas, son and heir of the said William, should marry Elizabeth, daughter of the said Geoffrey.

Again, in the Inquisitiones, 4 Edward IV., we find the following:

Will' us Tailboys, miles, attinctus.
Hesil maner' et dom'.
Anlaby Frith.
Hesill terr'.
Croft maner'.
Thorpe maner'.
Sotby maner'.
Faldingworth maner'.
Goldthaught dom'.
Bolyngton Patron' prior.
Skeldinghope dom'.
Paddokthorpe man'.

This William Tailbois is called Earl of Kyme in the annals of William of Worcester. He was the son of Walter Talbois, by Alice, his wife, who was daughter of Sir Humphry Stafford, Knight, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Bonville, and by her had a son, Sir Robert Tailbois, who was buried at Kyme, Lincolnshire. William Tailbois was taken prisoner at Redesdale, brought to Newcastle, and beheaded in 1463. Sir Robert Tailbois, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir J. Heron, Knight, was Lord of Kyme and Redesdale, had livery of the estates of his father, which were restored 12 Edward III. The will of Sir Robert Tailbois is dated November 16th, 1494, and was proved June 19th, 1495. The following is a copy of it:

"My body to be buried in the Priory of Kyme, on the north side of the choir, and there I will have a tomb with a picture of me, and another of my wife, my son George, my son William, my two sons Robert and John. Whereas a marriage is intended between my son George, and Elizabeth, sister to Sir Wm. Gascoigne, Kt."

"I will that my manor of Faldingworth, and the advowson of the church and the manor of Rothingham, in Lancashire, be settled on my son Wm. Talboys for live.

"I will that my manors of Kyme, Newton, Hornington, and Oxton, in the county of York, be settled on Robert Taylboys, my son, for live, my sons John, William, Robert, and Queda, my daughter.

"I will that an obit be kept yearly for me in the Priory of Kyme, and the like obit in the Priory of Bolington, in Lincolnshire, and I appoint Wm. Hussee, Thos. Welby, and Thomas Wymbish, my exors."

The barony of Kyme was restored to Sir Robert Tailbois about the year 1471, 12 Edward IV., and as he had intimated in his will, the marriage took place between his eldest son and Elizabeth, sister to Sir Wm. Gascoigne, Knight. From this alliance sprung nine children, four sons and five daughters. Matilda, John, Walter,

Dorothy, died without issue. Elizabeth married Sir C. Willoughby, Knight, from whom descended the Lords Willoughby de Parham. Cecilia married first Wm. Ingleby, of Ripley, Yorkshire, and secondly, John Tourney, Esq., who was at that time the head of that distinguished family. Anne married Sir E. Dymoke, Knight, and secondly, Robert Carr, and from the former marriage is derived the present family of Dymoke.

William Taylboys was a canon of Lincoln Cathedral, where he was buried, and the following inscription was upon his monument:

"Hic jacet magister Wilhelm's Taylboys, quondam canonicus hujus ecclesiæ, et filius venerabilis viri Georgii Taylbois militis, et domine Elizabethæ uxoris ejus qui obiit—die—

"Anno Dom. MCCCCC.

"Cujus anime propitietur Deus. Amen."

The tomb is in the cross aisle near the south rose window in Lincoln Cathedral. It is made of freestone, altar fashioned, covered with black marble, and surrounded with escutcheons. This inscription was removed after the year 1641. This Sir W. Taylboys granted to the vicars choral of this cathedral a yearly rent charge upon his manor at Gautby.

Gilbert Taylboys was the youngest son of Sir George Taylboys of Kyme and Elizabeth, his wife: he was made Baron Taylboys of Kyme in the county of Lincoln, by summons to Parliament 27 Henry VIII. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Blount of Kinlet, Salop, who was the most beautiful of all the ladies of the court of Henry VIII., and by whom that monarch had a son, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond. From the above marriage proceeded two sons and one daughter. The two sons died, and the daughter, Elizabeth, married first Thomas Wymbish, Esq., and secondly, Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick. Gilbert Lord Taylboys died in the year 1530, and was buried at Kyme, which manor theretofore the caput baroniæ of the old barons of Kyme, in the division of his inheritance among the heirs general, came to the family of Dymoke of Scrivelsby, county of Lincoln, who for a considerable time continued to possess it, until the last century it was aliented by sale into the hands and blood of strangers. Leland mentions the goodly house and park of Kyme, as being in a most flourishing state during the reign of Henry VIII., and occupied by the last Lord Tailbois, to whose memory there is a brass plate in the north wall of Kyme church, with the following inscription:

"Here lyeth Gylbert Taylboys, Lord Taylboys, Lord of Kyme, wych married Elizabeth Blount, one of the daughters of Sir John Blount, Kt., of Kynlet, in the county of Sbropshier, wych Lord Taylboys departed forth of this world the xv. day of April, A.D. 1530. Whose solle God pardon. Amen."

It is much to be regretted that the foregoing inscription is the only remains of a most splendid tomb of polished marble, adorned

with the bearings of the allied family, which formerly ornamented Kyme church. From neglect the tomb had fallen into a very dilapidated state previous to the removal of the old church at Kyme in 1807, and was totally incapable of being repaired. The tomb had a figure of a gentleman with his spurs on, over his head the arms of Taylboys and on his right shoulder the same shield, except that there was but one escallop in chief, instead of two. On the sinister side was the figure of a lady kneeling, with the arms of Blount over her dress. Both these figures were in brass, and had scrolls with Latin inscriptions proceeding from their mouths.

Memorable is Mr. Wymbish for the claim he preferred to be allowed the barony of Taylboys, in right of his wife Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Gilbert Lord Taylboys, when after solemn argument, at which King Henry VIII. was present, assisted by his court and temporal lawyers, the following sentence was given, viz.: That no man, husband of a baroness in her right, should use the title of her dignity, until he had a child by her, whereby he should become tenant by courtesie of her barony. Therefore Mr. Wymbish failed in his demand.

Upon this occasion Henry VIII., it is said, moved the following question: If the crown of England should descend to his daughters, whether her husband would use the style of England? The Chief Justice answered, not by right, but by grace, because the crown of England is out of the law of courtesy, but if it were subject thereto, then it were clear.

During King Henry's progress through the county of Lincoln in 1541, he slept at Nocton, the property of Thomas Wymbish, Esq., who married Elizabeth, only daughter of Gilbert Lord Taylboys, half sister to Henry, Duke of Richmond. Mr. Wymbish died at an early age, and the widow married Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, one of the sons of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland.

The barony of Kyme is considered to be in abeyance between the heirs general of the Dymoke line, and the other sister and coheirs—unless, as is probable, it is affected by the attainder of William, the father of Sir Robert Tailbois—the latter was restored to his titles in 12 Edward III.

In *Nichols Test. Vet.* p. 492, is the copy of the will of Dame Elizabeth Greystock, widow—late wife of Sir J. Vavasour Knight, 14th May, 1509.

"My body to be buried in the monastery of St. Elene, within Bishopsgate in London—my brother Robert Taylboys—to my sister Maud Tyrwhit, &c., proved July 16th, 1509."

This Elizabeth Greystock was daughter of Sir Robert Taylboys, and aunt of Gilbert, Lord Kyme. It does not appear why she styled herself Elizabeth Greystock.

In Bakewell Church there is a monument with the following inscription:

"Here lyeth Sir George Vernon, Kt., deceased—the—day of—Anno 156— and Dame Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir Gylbert Tayllbois, deceased—the—day of —156—

"Whose solles God pardon."

In *Weever's Funeral Monuments*, p. 840, we find the following:

"Henry Fitzroy, natural son of King Henry VIII. (begotten of Lady Taylboys, daughter of Sir John Blount, Kt.), Duke of Richmond, was here interred (within the diocese of Norwich) as Grafton, Stow, Holinshed, and others affirm."

From a table of the High Sheriffs of Lincolnshire it appears that

Walter Talboyes, Knight, was high sheriff of that county, A.D. 1423.

John Talboyes, Esq., was high sheriff, A.D. 1426.

Robert Talboyes, Knight, was high sheriff, A.D. 1481.

George Talboyes, Esq., was high sheriff, A.D. 1496.

Gilbert Talboyes, Knight, was high sheriff, A.D. 1526.

In *Hasted's History of Kent* we read of a Ralph Talboys, vicar of Monckton in Thanet, *circa* 1590, and again (page 620) Ralph Talboys, S.T.P., who was presented to a prebendary, 13th November, 1594, and in the cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral are the arms of Talboys, "Argent, a saltire gules, on a chief of the last, three escallops of the field,"—placed there no doubt in commemoration of his having been a liberal donor in erecting that beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture.

Among the distinguished personages present at the ceremony of the foundation of the college at Camberwell on the 13th day of September, 1619, was Richard Tayleboys *(Lyson)*.

From some old Latin deeds, translated by Mr. Blore, it appears that in 1620, Gylbert Tayleboys possessed a fair estate in the parish of Slawston, Leicestershire, which estate was inherited by John Tailby, Esq., the historian, who aided Mr. Nichols in compiling his celebrated eight volume history of Leicestershire, now so scarce and valuable. John Tailby died in 1815—for his memoir see *Gentlemen's Magazine*, vol. lxxxv., p. 10. There was also another estate purchased by a descendant of Gylbert Tayleboys, at Humberstone in Leicestershire, which has been in the possession of the family since the year 1660, and is now the property of William Ward Tailby, Esq., lord of the manor of Welham, who holds considerable landed estates in this county, and who is the respected master of the South Leicestershire hounds. It is quite probable that Mr. Tailby descends from the old family of Tailboys, for in his pedigree the Christian name of Gilbert has descended

from father to son, and the name of Wiburgh a connection of the Lancashire branch of the Tailbois family was held by Wiburgh Tayleby of Slawston, who died 1690. The name of Tailbois has been spelt in almost innumerable ways: Tailbois, Taillebois, Tayllebois, Taillebosc, Tailegebosch, Tailebosch, Talebois, Taylebois, Tallebosch, Talybois, Talboys, Taleboys, Tailbye, Tailbei, Talbye.—*(Duchesne, Stowe, Camden, Ingulphus, Domesday Book, Cockersand Register, Dugdale, Harleian MS., etc.)*.

May 25th, 1863.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following New Members were elected: Frederick Palmer, Esq., Withcote Hall; the Rev. T. Butler, D.D., Allexton Rectory; the Rev. Thomas Norris, Tugby Vicarage; Edward Studd, Esq., Hallaton Hall; William Hay, Esq., Bowden Hall; Frederick Roberts Hill, Esq., Cranoe; Mr. Thos. Bunney, Leicester.

Among the antiquities exhibited were the following:

By Mr. North (by permission of the Curator of the Town Museum) a brass signet ring, recently found on the site of Danett's Hall, Leicester, accompanied by the following memoir:—This signet ring of brass was found on the site of Danett's Hall, Leicester, in February last, at about six feet below the then surface of the soil. It is rude in construction and ornament, and is the work of, probably, the fourteenth century. The signet shows a merchant's mark of an ordinary character, comprising within it the letters I. O., being probably the initials of its original owner. These arbitrary signs were much used by merchants and others not entitled to bear arms, and they not unfrequently had them engraved upon their seals and rings, as has been shown at previous meetings of this Society. The present ring, like many others of its class, is of a large size, and was worn upon the forefinger or thumb. Shakspere refers to these rings when he makes Falstaff say to the Prince (*Henry IV.*, scene the fourth),—

"When I was about thy years, Hal, I was not an eagle's talon in the waist; I could have crept through any alderman's *thumb ring*."

Mr. North also exhibited a Nuremberg token, much worn, recently found in excavating upon the property of A. Turner, Esq., Bow Bridge, Leicester. Several other specimens of these same coins or counters were exhibited. They are constantly being found, and have almost ceased to be looked upon as curiosities.

By Mr. Thomas Nevinson, an encaustic tile, dug up recently in Sycamore Lane, Leicester; size, five inches and a quarter square. The pattern is arranged in circles, the corners of the tile being filled up by trefoils, the centre by a kind of star of eight leaves. Between the two outer circles the word "Glaunvile" occurs in Lombardic characters. The colour of the tile is, as usual, brown, the devices yellow. Also, a tile six inches and a half square, found built into the foundations of a house lately pulled down in the Newarke, Leicester. The device of this tile is raised in embossed work, and shows the sacred monogram I.H.C., surrounded by a foliated border. The whole of this tile is covered by a green glaze. Also some coins, among which were a shilling of Charles II., a groat of one of the Edwards, minted at Canterbury, and a Nuremburg token, found in the garden of the same house.

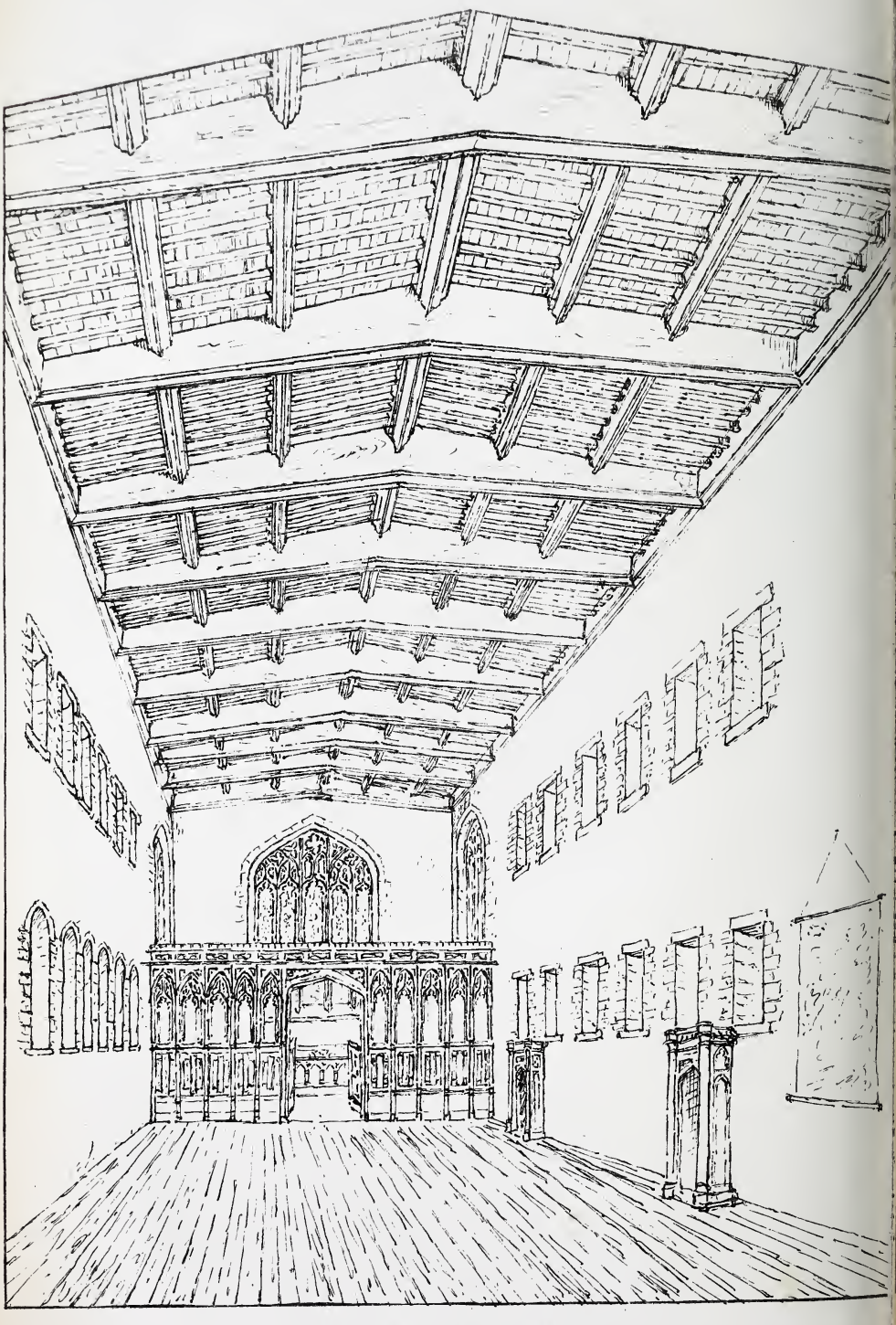
By Mr. John Hunt, a silver spoon, found at Bushby, in this county, three feet and a half below the surface, bearing the assay mark of the year 1600; also two coins (one a groat of Edward I. [?] minted at Canterbury, the other an abbey piece), found at Leicester Abbey, a crown of Charles I., and other coins.

By Mr. Henry Goddard, two Roman cinerary urns, found near S. Margaret's Church, Leicester, one of the unusual pattern known among antiquaries as the "hooped pattern," eight inches in height, by five inches in diameter, and marked by three "hoops," the other, in perfect preservation, of the ordinary type, eight inches and a half in height by seven inches in diameter across its widest part; also a coin of Trajan (A.D. 98 to 117), large brass, found in the Cherry Orchard, Leicester, where so many remains of Roman civilization have been discovered. On the obverse, round the head of the Emperor, is the inscription IMP (eratori) CAES (ari) NERVAE-TRAIANO-AVG (usto) GER (manico) DAC (ico) P (ontifici M (aximo) TR (ibunitia); the reverse is entirely illegible; and some Roman coins lately found upon the Danett's Hall estate during the excavations there, comprising a Nero, and a small brass of one of the Constantines.

By the Rev. J. H. Hill, copy of the works of Epiphanius, Bishop of Salamis (afterwards called Constantia), in the original binding, quite perfect with the exception of a corner torn off the title page, printed in 1545, and purchased at Holt sale in 1848.

WIGSTON'S HOSPITAL.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson called the attention of the Society to the changes which will shortly be effected in Wigston's Hospital, Leicester. The new scheme, he was informed, compels the trustees to adopt one of two courses; either to adapt the present building to the purpose of a school, or to destroy it and erect new school



WIGSTON. HOSPITAL
Leicester.
The Interior stripped of the Inmates apartments.

buildings on the site. Mr. Nevinson expressed himself strongly in favour of making an effort to induce the trustees of the hospital to preserve the present buildings; and thought as one of the primary objects of this Society was to aid in preserving—when such preservation did not interfere with modern requirements—all ancient buildings of local or national interest, it would view the demolition of this ancient and interesting building with regret. Mr. Nevinson proceeded to show, from a carefully prepared drawing by Messrs. Goddard and Son, Architects, that the present building, merely by the removal of the inmates' rooms, which are constructed within the main building, and are entirely independent of the roof, would form at once a fine hall, well adapted for school purposes. This hall,—not including the chapels or the kitchens now separated from the former by a partition,—would be sixty-eight feet four inches in length, by twenty-two feet in width, and would accommodate two hundred and fifty children; but an additional twenty-two feet in length could be obtained by the removal of the partition just alluded to, and the hall would then accommodate three hundred and thirty-two children. The present roof is an open timber one, entirely constructed of oak, in very fair preservation, and is architecturally of good design and execution. This arrangement would not interfere with the chapel, which Mr. Nevinson suggested might be preserved, and separated from the school hall by the restoration of the screen which formerly existed, but which has been destroyed, only a few traces being now in existence. The re-erection of this screen and the restoration of the end window, with the opening of the side windows, would complete all the work necessary in the chapel. The exterior walls of the whole building would require to be cleared of the plaster and to be pointed. Mr. Nevinson further suggested that the highly picturesque timber and plaster building running at right angles with the main edifice, now used as larders and store rooms, should be converted into play rooms for the scholars in wet weather, which could be readily effected by the removal of the partitions which now divide the building into separate apartments. The house adjoining the hospital, built for the residence of the master, and now let, might be used as the abode for the master of the school. These alterations in the present building, and the erection of two class rooms, Mr. Nevinson conceived would provide school buildings perfectly well adapted to the purposes contemplated by the scheme.

Two water colour drawings by Mr. Dudgeon, representing the back of the buildings and one of the porches, were exhibited.

A discussion followed the remarks made by Mr. Nevinson, who then moved,—

"That this Society present a memorial to the trustees of Wigston's Hospital, praying that the old hospital be preserved for the new school to be formed; and that tracings of the drawing now

exhibited be laid before them in order to show that the present building would be available for that purpose."

Mr. Alfred Ellis seconded the motion.

Mr. James Thompson said he felt the Society was obliged to Mr. Nevinson for having brought the matter under their consideration. He, for one, hoped the old hospital would not be taken down. It was one of the very few remains of architectural antiquity of its kind still remaining among us; and he hoped it would not share the fate of the house known as Richard the Third's which (as they all remembered) had been removed twenty years ago, when the expenditure of a few hundred pounds would have ensured its preservation. Such fabrics, when destroyed, could never be replaced. If a Society like theirs did not make an effort to save them from destruction, no one else would. He hoped the beautiful drawing of Mr. Joseph Goddard, with its minute and admirable fidelity of detail, would be laid before the trustees, and that Mr. Dudgeon's drawings would accompany it; so that those gentlemen would have every assistance in coming to a conclusion respecting the fitness of the building for the object proposed.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

A sub-committee was also appointed to frame a memorial, and to use such means as may be desirable to carry out the resolution.

Excavations having recently been made near the Jewry Wall, Leicester, under the auspices of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, in the presence of Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A., F.S.A., and many local antiquaries, to determine, if possible, its origin and use, Mr. Henry Goddard, Architect, of Leicester, took part in the operation, and was enabled to take accurate measurements of every part of that very ancient structure. Mr. Goddard exhibited to this Society a drawing of the Jewry Wall, showing the discoveries made during those excavations, which he explained in the following paper:

THE JEWRY WALL, LEICESTER.

Excavations having been made in front of the Jewry Wall to ascertain its depth and the extent of its foundation, I felt desirous of examining, measuring, and making a correct drawing of the structure. I have done so, and have pleasure in exhibiting the drawing for the inspection of the Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, with an elevation and section of the wall, and the dimensions of the details.

The wall consists of four arches, with a niche between the two central arches. The present level of the passage between the wall and the church has been considerably raised above the level originally existing in the Roman period. Hence, the piers which sustain the arches or barrel roofs sink below the pavement 7 feet 6 inches.

At this depth a line of loose concrete is met with, 14 to 18 inches thick, which probably lay immediately beneath the Roman road or pavement.

The excavation and piers continued downwards below this level about 11 feet. This fact shows that the piers and barrel roofs did not project beyond the face of the wall seen in the recesses more than 4 feet 6 inches; the piers having a perpendicular face of Roman tiles and stone of regular masonry down to the lowest foundations.

The projection of the piers being only 4 feet 6 inches, and the latter showing no connection with any building in an easterly direction—that is, towards the church of St. Nicholas—I cannot suppose the fabric to have been a temple, as some antiquaries conjecture it to have been: in my opinion it was the western entrance to the ancient city, having two gateways; and I am the more fortified in this opinion by the remembrance that some years ago, in excavating for the foundation of a building in Talbot Lane, I discovered remains of a paved road, of considerable width, in a direct line between the Jewry Wall and Watts's Causeway, which connected the town anciently with the Roman road called the Foss Way.

Between the two central arches was a niche for a statue. At the northern end of the Jewry Wall was an arched recess, which, being close to one of the gates, may have formed a sentinel's room. In the wall here were two narrow apertures, with circular heads, intended perhaps for the use of the sentinel in looking out and watching the approach of strangers. At the southern extremity of the wall is a similar, but wider recess, having a like purpose, namely, that of a guard chamber for the use of sentries. Formerly, a cottage stood in this arch, which was taken down some years ago.

Let me now invite the attention of this Society to the dilapidated and unsafe state of this very interesting work of antiquity. Some years since, some person cut away nearly the whole of the piers below the barrel roofs, in order to provide a shelter in which to hang ladders, to protect them from the influences of the weather. On examining the top of the wall, I find that that portion of it which would have given strength, by counterbalancing the overhanging roof, is perished and gone. Consequently, I consider the overhanging arches are in a very dangerous condition; and if brick piers are not immediately built for their support, we shall very soon see but little left of this remarkable specimen of ancient art and ingenious architecture.*

* The following extracts relative to the Jewry Wall, from Throsby's History and Antiquities of Leicester (1791), may be read with interest:

"The Temple of Janus has occasioned a variety of opinions. Burton and some others contend that the ruin known by the name of Jewry Wall is the remains of that temple. Cart, the historian, seems to smile at the opinion, and advances positively, that he has no tolerable reason to support it. In a place called Holy

The best thanks of the Meeting were heartily given to Messrs. Goddard and Son for the very valuable and artistic drawing exhibited, and to Mr. Goddard, senior, for his explanatory paper. It was also resolved that means ought to be taken to preserve the remains, and the Secretaries were instructed as to the course proposed to be adopted.

Mr. Vincent Wing communicated some observations upon "The present requirements of Gothic Architecture in order to a successful competition with the Works of Antiquity," which that gentleman will again bring under the notice of the Society at its next General Meeting to be held this year at Kibworth.

Bones, near the ruin, it has been usual to dig up bones of beasts in large quantities which have led numbers to conjecture, and others to assert, that the inhabitants of these parts, antecedent to the invasion of the Romans, sacrificed here." (Pages 2 and 3.)

"Respecting a Janus' Temple, at Leicester, I will endeavour to shew in what manner that opinion might originate. Who ever heard of a Janus' temple, of any consequence, but that built by Numa at Rome, with two brazen gates, one on each side, to be open in war, and shut in time of peace? That *Jani* or *Janua* might be a name or names brought from Rome, and adopted at this place when the Romans made a settlement here, is probable, as we find that people called thoroughfares after the god Janus' name, *Jani;* and gates, even of private houses, *Januæ*. Whatever might be the knowledge of the inhabitants of this place respecting the original use of the old wall, called Janus' Temple, prior to the total demolition of Leicester in 1173, at that great event, it is probable, the little light that then remained upon the subject would be totally obscured for ever. For we are told that few or none of its inhabitants, who were driven thence, at that time, returned back; and that the place, even more thon a century after, was of no import, and almost then wholly in ruins. It would be natural for those who settled here, after this event, to enquire something about the old wall and its name, which might then retain that of *Jani* or *Janua*. And how easily for those who were at a loss to account for these names, as gates or thoroughfares, to conclude that *Jani* or *Janua* must mean Janus, and that this old wall must be part of a Janus' temple. Any one must perceive how easily the transition would be made from *Jani* or *Janua*, to Janus; particularly by those who are fond of the marvellous, who, by a happy knack, peculiar to themselves, can stretch a pigmy to a giant, or make a mountain of a mole-hill. Thus I am of opinion, that the error, in tradition, has been honoured with the approbation of some men of respectability, who, if they had not trusted too much upon common fame, but had taken time in carefully studying and examining this ruin, would have found two of the strongest testimonies of its name and use still remaining: inscriptions on its brow could not have conveyed ideas more forcible. These are the two remaining archways, seen most perfectly on the river-side the wall, which were, it is clear, originally, nothing but foot passages or thoroughfares." (Pages 392, 393, 394.)

The space before Mr. Andrews's house [now the site of Mr. Rust's warehouse] cannot easily be accounted for, but upon the score of the gate of the antient City and wall continuing from the South end of the ruin, right across that broad way to the house known by the name of the Recruiting Sergeant, *where the Jewry-wall has recently been proved to have continued, by the discovery of its foundation made of the like materials and thickness:* near which was found, at the same time, a fine Roman coin, of the Emperor Maximilian." (Page 17.)

"Being desirous of learning something that might lead to a discovery of its former magnitude (for I fear its use will never be discovered by the most sagacious antiquary) I employed some workmen to dig, on the east side [that now visible] transversely, and in a right direction with the wall, thinking to find a foundation, which I intended to have traced to its extent; but it no where continued a foot beyond the projecting parts." (Page 7.)

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BY THOMAS NORTH,

Honorary Secretary of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society; and Member of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

*** The profits (if any) will be expended upon the Restoration of S. Martin's Church, Leicester.

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". . . . carefully compiled and valuable work . . . . There is a great deal of curious matter connected with the various changes in religious worship which occurred during the years over which the before mentioned churchwardens' accounts range, and a good index furnishes a ready means of reference to any item to which the reader may desire to turn. . . . ."—*Church Times.*

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OF

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

July 27th, 1863.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following NEW MEMBERS were proposed and elected:—The Right Hon. Lord Berners, Sir F. T. Fowke, Bart., Sir Henry Halford, Bart., the Ven. Archdeacon Fearon, Col. King (Stretton Hall), Edward Finch Dawson, Esq. (Launde Abbey), the Rev F. Norman (Bottesford), the Rev. T. Hanbury (Church Langton), Thomas Macaulay, Esq. (Kibworth), W. Billson, jun., Esq. (Leicester), James Bouskell, Esq. (Leicester). The six first-named noblemen and gentlemen were elected presidents of the Society.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, and the Secretary requested to forward a copy thereof to Robert Burnaby, Esq., the son of the late Rev. Robert Burnaby, incumbent of St. George's Church, in this town:—"The Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society record with much regret the loss by death of their late excellent colleague, the Rev. Robert Burnaby. Mr. Burnaby was one of the earliest members of this Society, and by his regular and punctual attendance at its meetings, his courteous bearing towards all its members, and his able and efficient conduct as their chairman on numerous occasions, tended much to strengthen the Society and to promote its usefulness. The Committee will long experience, and still longer regret, the loss they sustain by his decease."

Mr. Nevinson reported, on behalf of the sub-committee appointed to communicate with the Trustees of Wyggeston's Hospital, that the following memorial was prepared to those gentlemen, and would be presented to the trustees at their next meeting.

To the Trustees of Wyggeston's Hospital.

"GENTLEMEN,—

"The Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society are informed that by the scheme lately set forth by authority for the governance of the funds and for your guidance as Trustees of Wyggeston's Hospital, a school in connexion with the Hospital must be provided in Leicester, and that the present ancient Hospital must either be adapted for the purposes of such school, or be destroyed and a new building erected upon its site.

"The Committee being anxious to preserve (if such preservation will not be detrimental to the object proposed by the scheme) the ancient Hospital as a building of considerable interest, and as a memento of its Founder, venture to submit the following statement for your consideration. In order to test the eligibility of the present building for the purposes of a school, several members of the Society have inspected it, and the following is the result of the inspection.

1. "By simply removing the inmates' rooms (which are constructed independently of the main building, and which do not at all interfere with the roof) a room well adapted for a school 90 ft. 7 in. long, and 21 ft. 9 in. wide would be obtained. This alteration would not interfere with the chapel, which it is suggested might be left intact, and an open screen put up in the place of that now destroyed.

2. "The curious timber and plaster building running at right angles with the main building, might very readily by removing the partitions be converted into a play place for the children in wet weather.

3. "The Master's house, at present let, would form, with proper alterations, a commodious residence for the Head Master of the school.

"With these alterations, and with the addition of a class room, which could be constructed from the materials of the inmates' rooms, the Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society beg to submit that spacious premises and convenient accommodation for a school of 328 children could be readily obtained without the demolition of the old Hospital, which they would greatly regret.

"The exterior of the building would require to be cleared of the plaster and to be pointed, and the end window of the chapel to be restored to its original design.

"The Committee to make their ideas more clear to the Trustees of the Hospital, have caused an architectural drawing of the interior of the proposed school room, with the chapel beyond, to be prepared, which accompanies this statement, and sincerely hope the Trustees of Wyggeston's Hospital will take the matter into their serious consideration before determining to demolish the old buildings.

"We are, gentlemen,

("On behalf of the Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society)

"Your obedient servants,

"THOMAS NEVINSON,

"ALFRED ELLIS,

"T. NORTH,—*Hon. Secretary.*"

The SECRETARY reported communications from the Leicester Highway and Sewerage Committee, and from the Vicar of St. Nicholas' parish, fully coinciding with the plans proposed by the Committee of this Society for the preservation of the Jewry Wall.

Mr. CROSSLEY called the attention of the Society to the sewerage operations shortly to be carried on in Jewry Wall Street, Leicester, and stated that if the sewer is carried in a straight line down the street, it will damage the very interesting Roman Pavement now there in its original position.

Mr. HICKSON, of Melton Mowbray, exhibited, through Mr. North, two gold solidi, or Roman gold coins of the Emperor Valens, lately found near Melton Mowbray. These two coins had previously been inspected by the members of the London Numismatic Society, and pronounced by them as being in the very finest condition. Valens was the brother of Valentinian I., born A.D. 328, and associated with his brother in the Empire A.D. 364, he ruling the East, and Valentinian the West. He was never seen after his defeat by the Goths near Adrianople, A.D. 378. The obverse of the coins bore the inscription DN. VALENS. P.F. AVG. the reverse being much the same as that upon the fine solidus of Valentinian, exhibited at a late meeting by Mr. North; one bore the mint mark SMLVG., *i.e.*, *Signata moneta Lugdunensis*—(money struck at Lyons): the other was struck at Rome, and had R. Q. in the exergue, that is, *Romæ quarta (officina)*—(the fourth mint at Rome). These coins are both common types, but they are very rarely found in such fine condition.

Mr. G. C. NEALE exhibited a very fine specimen of the Restoration Medal of Charles II., accompanied by the following short memoir:—This medal is the work of the celebrated Dutch artist, Roettiers, the supplanter and successor of the unfortunate Simon, the favourite medalist in the time of Cromwell. The obverse bears the head and titles of Charles II., to commemorate whose restoration this medal was struck. The reverse has Britannia seated, receiving the offerings of Hercules, Justice, and Minerva. A genius above is bearing a palm branch, the sun is pouring forth beams of glory; in the distance a ship is approaching. Beneath is read "Felicitas Britanniæ, 29 Maii, 1660."

Mr. SARSON exhibited a groat of Edward I., found with a great quantity of fragments of pottery of all kinds, Roman, mediæval, and modern, and a large collection of bones, during excavations upon his premises near to St. Nicholas' Church, Leicester. The foundations of Roman buildings have also been found during the works.

August 4th and 5th, 1863.

GENERAL MEETING AT KIBWORTH.

The Rev. M. F. F. Osborn, President.

The Annual Summer Meeting (which was held in union with the Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of Northampton) was opened on Tuesday the 4th August by morning prayer in the parish church, immediately after which the architectural history of the fabric was told by the architect employed upon its restoration, William Slater, Esq., of London, in the following paper read by that gentleman.

KIBWORTH CHURCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

Having been desired by the Architectural and Archæological Society of Leicestershire to read a short Paper on this Church, it gives me pleasure to comply with the request.

Although Kibworth Church is very uniform in plan, and does not possess so many features of antiquarian interest as are frequently to be met with in some churches in this county, still it will repay a visit from members of the Society. I shall not have to trouble you with any lengthened description of its historical history, as no doubt this will be done by the Rector, in the paper he is good enough to favour us with on the general antiquities of the parish; in truth, very little historical record remains of our country churches, and if it is not too bold an assertion, we were going to say that they tell their own story sufficiently by a careful examination of their various remains. The church is dedicated to S. Wilfred; he is commemorated in the old English calendar on October 12th. Thirty-three churches have the same dedication, but only three of these are south of the Trent, of which this is one. S. Wilfred succeeded S. Chad in the see of York, about the year 673. He was expelled by King Egfrid. A very interesting account is given by Archdeacon Churton (in his *Early English Church*) of S. Wilfred, who is famous for being the founder of Ripon, and as having, after his expulsion from York, gone to Selsey, on the coast of Sussex, to preach to the southern Saxons and established a bishop's see before its removal to Chichester. S. Wilfred was also a great church builder and restorer; and in reference to the early Minster of York, it is related that "he found it in a state of miserable neglect, the old roof dropping with rain drops, and the windows open to the weather, and giving entrance to the birds, which made their nests within. He repaired it sub-

stantially, skilfully roofing it with lead (it was probably thatch before), and prevented the entrance of birds and rain by putting glass into the windows, yet such glass as allowed the light to shine within." At Ripon he built a new church of polished stone, with columns variously ornamented, and porches.

It appears from its name that Kibworth was an Anglo-Saxon village. It is stated in Nichols' History as formerly spelt *Chiburde*. There are many villages which have the same ending, viz., Kilworth—North and South—Bosworth, Brixworth—names which are famous to most of us. *Worth* has been understood to mean the piece or tongue of land between two streams at their intersection. On the other hand, Mr. Walford, in his account of the church of Worth, Sussex, published in the Sussex *Archæological Journal*, says, "The name of the place (Worth) is Anglo-Saxon, and probably Saxon-English also; it signifies a collection of houses, a street, village, and sometimes a principal residence with inferior houses about it for dependents, as was likely to be the case in this instance." I have only been enabled to obtain from Nichols' History, already referred to, a very slight description of the church. The most valuable is that of a view, showing the ancient tower and spire, the height of which was 53 yards, *i.e.*, 159 feet; also we are told that "there are three very neat galleries of modern construction," and that there is a peal of six bells, founded in 1732. This is a good specimen of a Midland county parish church, suitable, as no doubt originally designed, for a village of some importance. I shall confine myself, in the few remarks with which I shall trouble you, to its architectural description.

And first with reference to the ground plan, which consists of chancel with a modern vestry on the north side, nave, north and south aisles, at the eastern termination of which are two chapels, north and south porches, a modern western tower, in the position of the ancient tower and spire, which fell down in 1825. The plan is remarkable for its uniformity. The earliest portion is the priests' door on the south side of the chancel, and, as far as I can judge (except portions of the chancel walls), the only portion of the early thirteenth century church remaining. The date of the nave, aisles, and chancel is about 1350, and what is generally known as the period which is termed Transitional from Second to Third Pointed. As regards the chancel, I should first describe it before the late restorations. No structural work had been done to the north and south walls. I have drawings which will better explain the condition of the chancel before the alterations. The roof was a modern low roof of no architectural pretensions, and covered with lead. The east window, as will be seen by reference to the drawings, consisted of five bays, with floying or reticulated tracery, but with a flat or segmental head. A new roof, following

the ancient pitch, which it is unnecessary to describe, has been placed in lieu of the old one; and new tracery heads in the east window, in character with the windows in the aisles, have been constructed. It appears to me that the former head of the east window was not the orginal one. I must also call your attention to the sedilia on the south side, to the east of which is the piscina, which has been recently put in, following, as far as possible, the example given in Nichols. On further examination of the sedilia, you will observe that the lower part, or the jambs and piers, are not of the same date or character as the tracery head, neither are they constructed of the same stone. The capitals and bases are so rude that it is hardly possible to make out their exact character or date; there is, however, a similarity between them and the details of the priests' door, so it is just possible they may be coeval with the First Pointed church. Churches were restored or rebuilt at a much slower rate than in the present age. It may be that the nave and aisles were rebuilt first, and the First Pointed chancel left, for it is manifest that it is of a later period than the body of the church. The jambs of the chancel windows are of the same character as those of the nave—the tracery heads much inferior. There is underneath the most southern window on the south wall, the low-side window, the ancient use of which has not yet been accurately determined by the authorities; it had reference to some discipline of the Church, which appears to have been lost. The doorway to the ancient vestry still remains in the north wall, and the marks outside clearly point out its original position. The vestry and entrance to it, on the north side, are modern, and, as you know, were erected when the church was reseated. The chancel is forty-two feet by nineteen feet three inches. The nave is separated from the aisles by an arcade of four arches, of good proportions. You will observe that there are no capitals, a rather uncommon treatment, and which seems to mark the decline of what we think the best period of pointed architecture; similar examples are to be met with at Misterton in this county, and there are many large foreign churches which have the same treatment. The mouldings of the arches and piers are bold, and the bases are well terminated. The chancel arch is of good proportions, the arch is an equilateral triangle. I must call your especial attention to the tracery of the windows in the aisles; the tracery differs in those in the north side from those in the south. The windows of the two chapels are of five lights, the bays are small.

I have already referred to the date of the church as being the latter portion of Second Pointed style; and I will very briefly describe, a little in detail, a few of the characteristics of the tracery of Gothic windows of the Second Pointed or Decorated period. In the First period it is unnecessary to say the windows were simply pointing without cusping; then follow forms of geometrical pat-

terns of every variety of treatment; numerous examples abound in churches in this vicinity,—in the aisles of Naseby church are good examples of geometrical tracery so often to be met with in parish churches. There is a pattern of window called interlacing, where the sections of the mullion are produced to the arch; this is very common in the churches in this neighbourhood—nearly all the churches in Leicester have examples of this kind. After windows of this date came what is termed flowery or flamboyant tracery,—a development of which is found in this church. In the Midland counties numerous examples are to be found of windows of this date; and you may have remarked, when inspecting the churches, how full of remains they are of the period of Second and Third Pointed Gothic in all its different phases; but comparatively few remain of Norman or First Pointed or Early English.

The naves and aisles were until very lately ceiled; these have been all removed, and new roofs substituted. I do not venture to say that the effect is much better; but I was delighted to hear from the rector that since the roofs were open he found the church much better to preach in, so, practically at least, there has been an improvement. It is very unusual to have two porches so precisely alike; may they have been for the two divisions of the parish, Kibworth-Beauchamp and Kibworth-Harcourt? These porches are of good proportion, and of the same date as the rest of the church. The roof's copings and parapets or eaves cornice have been much tampered with. You will notice a niche over the archway which formerly most probably had a figure.

Having very briefly touched on the chancel, nave, aisles, and porches, there remains—or rather there are no remains of—the old tower and spire. The facts are briefly these:—The tower was being repaired, and whilst the workmen were at breakfast, the tower and spire fell down on July 23rd, 1825. It is stated that very little damage was done to the rest of the church; the extent of the mischief is easily seen by an inspection of the masonry—in most cases a most admirable clue to the fixing of dates of rebuilding; the two west windows of the aisles and the west clerestory windows are obviously altogether of a different character to the rest, and were all put in with the walls adjacent since the fall. After this lamentable catastrophe, steps were immediately taken to rebuild the tower and spire. An eminent architect, Mr. Smirke of London (I presume the present Sir R. Smirke) was called in, and plans and estimates were obtained and numerous meetings of the parishioners held for the purpose of considering the best way of carrying out the object; but, as is too often the case, the lowest estimate (between £5000 and £6000) was considered very high, so much so, that the idea of reproducing the old example was abandoned. The result was that a local architect was called in, Mr. Flint, of Leicester, who made the design for a new tower altogether,

which was executed as we see, and which we can now examine. Nichols gives a view of the church from the north-east, and a south view which looks almost like what we term an elevation; unfortunately these two views differ as to the tower and spire slightly, but from what I could gather from both, I fear I must come to the conclusion that the loss to the parish and the county has been very great, and these views referred to convince me of the beautiful proportion of the tower and spire which formerly existed. It is said to have been about 159 feet high, and was erected since the nave, and was (at least so I judge from the prints) of the Third, or Perpendicular date, and I should think would have ranked very high in the spires of this county, in fact, was almost good enough to have competed (as we Northamptonshire men would say) with some of the spires in the neighbouring county; old Kibworth tower and spire seem to have been a little like Theddingworth and Brampton. It had the buttresses so peculiar to Northamptonshire, and which, for the want of a better name, I will call pilaster buttresses—that is, of a slight projection. You will find these almost at every tower, and in all dates. The spire was terminated by a broach; that is unusual in the later styles. There is a very fine example of a late broach spire at Stanion, near Geddington, which probably you may know, of this date. There are examples of broach spires at Market Harborough, Gadsby, Misterton, Oadby, and Frisby, but the spires in this county spring generally from parapets. Enough has been said to convince us of the great loss sustained to this parish and county, in consequence of the plan for rebuilding having been abandoned; but I do not think it would be generous for us, who live in these days, to cast too much censure on the representatives of the parish for this (as we no doubt all think) unwise decision. We cannot, however, be too thankful that no lives were lost, and that the church itself suffered so little. The next course was adopted, viz., that of erecting a tower of less cost, and (considering the time it was erected) I am of opinion that the present tower is of good proportions. The tower and spire of St. George's, Leicester, and the one before us, have, to my mind, considerable merit, for they were built when but little was known of proportions and detail, and when still less was cared for the revival of Christian pointed architecture.

I have described the structure, if not wearying you let me briefly allude to the internal arrangements. When I first inspected this church I congratulated the rector and the churchwardens upon having so beautiful a building, and one which was so well adapted in every way for the requirements of the parishioners. Happily, there was no wish or necessity for disturbing the old structure in the rearrangement of the seats. It is always to be regretted that the taking down of galleries involves the enlargement of the fabric.

The three neat galleries which existed in Nichols' time have ceased to be; the old pews are no more, and the nave is, as you see, refitted with seats of an uniform height; the pulpit is on the north side, and the prayer desk on the south. The font is, as it should be, placed at the western end of the church. This is the same font, a drawing of which is given in Nichols' history, but is not the old one. The old font you will have an opportunity of examining. During the Commonwealth, and the so-called incumbency of a Captain Yaxley, it was taken out of the church and converted to a horse-trough, and was afterwards buried in the churchyard. After that it was offered for sale to a late rector; but as it was considered too far gone for restoration, nothing was done until a few days ago, when, in company with the present rector, I made a visit of exploration, and the old font was dug up in a field, and we now trust will find its way to its original position, and exist for many years to come.* The chancel is very properly fitted with seats for the choir. On the south side is placed the organ. As I have not had in any way anything to do with these arrangements, I have the less scruple in saying how admirable they appear to me, and how well suited they are for the wants of the church. A few years since, comparatively speaking, we were in doubt as to the proper use of the chancel; now it is far otherwise, and no plan now is considered satisfactory by those who have studied the subject, and by our architectural societies, if the ritual arrangements are not duly considered and carried out.

I have not said anything yet as to the skreen which separates the body of the church from the chancel. I was very glad that the remnant of this old feature has been preserved. I have prepared a very rough sketch for its partial restoration. You will see at a glance that it is sadly mutilated. It is hardly my purpose to go much into the subject, yet a few words may not be altogether out of place. By reference to the ancient authorities, there is no doubt that a separation between the body of the church and the chancel always existed from the earliest times. These skreens were often constructed of stone or marble, and were originally low, on which were placed high desks or pulpits, from which the Epistle and Gospel and other portions of the service were read or sung, numerous examples of which remain in the ancient basilicas. It is not exactly known when the high skreens were erected with transverse rood lofts. These skreens were constructed of wood or stone in every variety of treatment and of richness in detail. In many counties the remnants of these skreens still remain. You will find also the staircase, which is usually constructed in the thickness of the wall on the north or south side of the chancel arch. In this instance the staircase is on the south

* This Font has since been replaced in the church.—T. North.

side. I must point out also the two stone corbels from their peculiar position. I think the rood beam might have been supported on them. The two small windows in this wall appear to have been placed there in reference to the rood loft. I cannot account for the first clerestory window on the south side being of three lights when all the others are only two. I have found instances where there have been clerestory or dormer windows constructed on the north and south side only near the chancel arch, as if to throw light on the rood loft, when no other clerestory windows have existed. I am unable to say whether these two windows were placed for a similar reason. We have no examples of skreens in England earlier than the thirteenth century, and from that time down to the present they have been placed in our churches. I regret I have not visited many parish churches on the continent. I have always noticed, however, how few examples of skreens remain compared to what exist in our own churches. It is quite manifest that the skreen has been always retained in our church. At Haselbeach there exists an iron skreen, or grille, of the seventeenth century. At Bulwick, in the same county, a Jacobean skreen. At Weldon, a high skreen was put up eight years ago. Many of the learned who have considered the subject, have thought that the best arrangement, and that which is best suited for the choral and ritual arrangements, is to have a low skreen or septum wall. I confess there is much to be said for this plan, which can be defended from ancient authority. I could not do better than refer you to a church which all members of this Society should be acquainted with. I mean Theddingworth, where the arrangements alluded to have been well carried out.* I should myself rigidly contend for the retention of the chancel skreen as in the case before us. As I have before remarked, the skreen is of great antiquity, and moreover we find numerous examples of skreens being put up in our churches in all periods since the Reformation, for instance, Gedington, Martham, in Norfolk; and, as is well known, at the college chapels at Oxford, viz., Wadham, Baliol, old skreens at Magdalene and Lincoln, before the alterations; Peterhouse, Caius College, Clare Hall, Cambridge; and St. Giles' in the Fields, London, now destroyed; and at St. Peter's, Cornhill, Sir C. Wren has placed a skreen, who, by the bye, must have been well acquainted with the ritual requirements of the Church. A sermon was preached at the opening of the church, November 27th, 1681, by the Rev. Bishop Berridge, who enters fully into the subject of chancel skreens. The Bishop says, "The place where the sacrament is administered was wont to be separated from the

* In alluding to Theddingworth church I am painfully reminded of the loss we have all sustained by the death of Mr. James. It was my good fortune to have been thrown much together with him ever since I was a pupil, and I owe to his kindness one of the first church restorations with which I was entrusted in Northamptonshire.

rest of the church by a skreen or partition; and this was anciently observed in the building of all consecrated churches within a few centuries after the Apostles themselves, even in the days of Constantine the Great, as well as in all ages since."

I have only to add that the sketches which are annexed were prepared, not only that the remarks I have made may be better understood, but also to serve as memoranda for future times of what has been lately done.

At the conclusion of Mr. Slater's paper, and after inspecting the church under his guidance, the company visited several places of interest in the village. Mrs. Buzzard invited the Society to inspect a rare collection of tapestry preserved in her house. The pannelling of one room is entirely covered with tapestry, apparently of Flemish manufacture. There are various scenes depicted, but no clue is given towards their elucidation. Mr. Phillips, of the Manor House, next shewed the company some historical manuscripts, and many objects of antiquarian interest in addition to those shewn by him in the temporary museum. The Society had previously directed a trench to be dug through a large Tumulus existing in a field known as the Hall Field on the north western side of the village with the hope of discovering its origin. The rain which came down in torrents nearly the whole of the day prevented many members from visiting the spot: a few however ventured, accompanied by Canon Trollope, who gave at the evening meeting a short account of the discoveries made.

THE TEMPORARY MUSEUM

was formed in the National Schoolroom, a class room being devoted to the exhibition of architectural drawings, &c. Among the articles lent for exhibition the following may be noticed:—

By Rev. M. F. F. Osborn: *Autographs*—Letter of Frederick the Great of Prussia to John Osborn, Minister to the Court of Dresden, with the insignia of the Order of the Red Eagle; letter of the Queen of Bohemia to Sir Henry Osborn, 1625; letter of Sir Henry Osborn to the Queen of Bohemia, 1625; pass of Speaker Lenthall to Sir Henry Osborn to go to Belvoir, 1645; letter of Admiral Byng to his sister, the Hon. Mrs. Osborn, written from on board the "Monarque" the night before the execution; frank of Sir Danvers Osborn, one of the latest governors of New York, 1645; a printed book of the date of 1518, printed at Venice, Pliny's letters. *Miscellaneous*—Basso-relievo, in wax, of the Last Supper; necklace of olive berries, brought from the Mount of Olives, 1820; miniature canoe brought from Venice, 1821; piece of the the Royal George; three old keys, 1645, one now in use; two Roman coins; a Scotch penny of Alexander; a silver two-penny piece of Queen Elizabeth; two farthings of Edward I; a

paper cutter of oak, from the timbers of the Bishop Ken's house, at Winchester, into which he refused to admit Nell Gwynne; pieces of oak bark from the old timbers of Kibworth Church, supposed to be 500 years old; an alabaster figure from China; a cross carved in stone by a poor boy employed to break stones on the road in Somersetshire; an ivory Chinese carved card case; a memorial gold medal of the Right Hon. William Pitt, 1806.

By Rev. Thomas James, Theddingworth: One Gris de Flandres jug; four rings on a card; one gold medal from Naseby; piece of Bidree ware; Sikh cup engraved in gold; illuminated MS. Koran, in cover; small crystal cup engraved in gold in ivory box; Turkish bowl (red earthenware); silver dorge (Buddhist symbol).

By Mr. John Phillips: Queen Elizabeth's poem in her own handwriting, signed; Charles II.'s autograph, for signing a warrant to William Hanbury, Esq., High Sheriff of the county of Northampton, December 1665; painting (Murillo); King Charles's Speech to Parliament; Bible; Journal of the Lords (first session after the Revolution); Ephemerides Persarum, &c.; tea urn and coffee pot; saddle, fish, and piece of work; twenty-two buckles of various kinds; six ear-rings; seven shoes; table.

By Rev. J. H. Hill: Roman remains; Ovid, fifteenth century (1492) Bernard Bernalium; St. Jerome (1485) Epiphanius, sixteenth century; Speed's Chronicle, seventeenth century.

By Mr. R. Johnson, Saddington: Knife, silver spoon, two Saxon beads, two tradesmen's tokens.

By Mr. S. W. Cox: Mill stone, bowl, cannon ball, three bullets, bayonet, knife, spearhead, three tiles, fancy brooch, coins, three books.

By Mr. H. Goddard: Glass bottle from Rhodes; two black hawks; two vases from Rhodes; string of ancient Egyptian porcelain beads, from which hangs suspended a small porcelain figure of Osiris; two Greek triptiches; rough olive berries from the Mount of Olives; four Roman lamps, Roman candlestick, and portion of crucible; scented pottery made by the Nuns of Santiago de Chile, seventeenth century; mug, with portrait of Charles II. rudely painted, 1662; Chinese chopsticks, razor, and lock; pair of stirrups; ancient key, and a spur gilt found near Bosworth, 1766.

By Rev. A. Pownall: Large, varied, and beautiful collection of coins.

By Rev. J. Davenport: Five encaustic tiles from Skeffington.

By Mr. G. C. Neale, Skeffington: Eighteen medals, carving No. 1 (Spanish) part of a Triptich; No. 2, Adam and Eve (ancient carving); water-colour drawings of Billesdon and Skeffington churches, previous to their restoration.

By Mr. H. Reynolds: Prize carving at Kensington Museum, gained by the carver.

By Mr. Wm. Collins: Two needlework pictures from Sebas-

topol; Rider's Almanack, 1684; ancient spectacles; christening dress used in 1769; two pairs of ancient slippers.

By Sir Henry Dryden: Water-colours of Rousham House, Oxfordshire; and Canons Ashby House, Northamptonshire.

By Rev J. M. Gresley: Print of a bench end in Nosely Chapel, with a cock (the crest of the Staunton family) at the elbow, of the fifteenth century; order to pay £1038 9s., being for fourteen days' pay of five troops of horse of Sir Arthur Hesillrigg's Regiment, December 31st, 1659, signed by O. Cromwell; order of the Council of State, appointed by Parliament for the repairs of the Vantguard and Swiftsure, signed by Sir Arthur Hesilrige, president, 5th February, 1652; value of Kibworth living as now let, Lady-day, 1744—the Glebe, £323 16s. 8d.

By Mrs. Pateman: Brown tea pot, green china tea pot, two blue china sauce-boats, cream jug (white with flowers), China tray with metal stand, portrait of Charles II., artist unknown—supposed to be an original painting.

By Mr. R. Johnson Saddington: Knife with agate handle, R. Johnson; silver spoon, W. Hill; two Saxon beads, W. Johnson; two tradesman's tokens, W. Johnson.

By Sir Henry Dryden, Bart.: Spearhead, found at Canons Ashby.

By Mr. John Hunt: Four swords, second of sixteenth century, third, seventeenth century; first, early part of sixteenth century; fourth, ditto; cross-bow found at Bosworth field; waistcoat, time of the Stuarts.

In addition to these articles there was a large collection of ancient china, coins, needlework, books, wood carving, &c., &c.

In the room devoted to architectural drawings the following were shown by,—

Messrs. Goddard and Son: Kilby Church, framed; Stackley Lodge, framed; the Grange, East Langton, framed; Alderman Newton's Charity—proposed New Schools, framed; West Cotes, New Schools, framed; Illumination on vellum, framed; Nicholson's Memorial, to be erected on the Leicester Cemetery; and the Jewry Wall, Leicester.

By Mr. Smeeton: Oil paintings, framed; Langton, Langton Hall, Wistow Hall, two Views of Gumley, Kibworth from the Carlton-road, Woodhouse, Caversham Bridge on the Thames, and Kibworth.

By Mrs. Islip: Four Continental Sketches, Foston Church, Netley Abbey window, and three framed engravings by Vivares.

Dinner was served at the Rose and Crown Inn at six o'clock. At 7.30 p.m. a public

EVENING MEETING

was held in the Grammar School, which was crowded by a very

large audience. The Rev. M. F. F. Osborn, the Rector of the parish, presided.

Mr. Edward Levien, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., British Museum, read the first paper, being—

NOTES ON THE MANORS OF KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP AND KIBWORTH HARCOURT.

Although the remarks which I am about to make this evening have in them little or nothing of novelty, still I venture to hope that they may prove of some interest to this Meeting, inasmuch as I shall endeavour to embody in them a short account of the parish in which we are now associated. The first grant, then, of land in the manor of Kibworth, or, as it was anciently styled, *Chiburde*, was made in the reign of Edward the Confessor, to Edwin Alferd, who also held land at Fleckney and Wistow, and was no doubt the progenitor of the family of Halford, who still reside at the latter named place. At the time of the Domesday Survey, the manor was granted to Robertus Dispensator, *i.e.*, Robert, the butler or steward, whose name was subsequently transmogrified into Despencer, after a process, the legality of which we must leave to be settled by the authorities who have recently had so much to say in the matter of Messrs. Bugg, of Bedford, and Jones, or Herbert, of Clytha. Whatever may be the law concerning this *vexata quæstio*, certain it is that William the Conqueror bestowed lands upon Robert Despencer, as he was then styled, on account of services performed about the royal person; and in 1221 we find that Henry III. granted the manor, with certain privileges, to Walter de Bellocampo or Beauchamp, as chief pantler to the king—the office, according to Littleton, involving the duties of carrying the king's banner, and acting as his butler, sewer, carver, or such like office, at his coronation. Afterwards, various members of the Beauchamp family were seized of the manor by the same tenure, until the year 1389, when Philippa, wife of Guy, Earl of Warwick, deceased, held both the manor and the advowson, on condition of placing a napkin upon the king's table on Christmas Day; the duties of a butler or carver's place having naturally been considered as too onerous to be undertaken by one of the fair sex, especially at a period when the nobility were neither hermits as to their eating, nor teetotallers with respect to their potations. In the year 1384 the Countess Philippa died, and the manor passed to some others, descendants of the Warwick family, concerning whom there is nothing worthy of record; until, in 1400, it came to Richard de Beauchamp, who was one of the most renowned and remarkable characters of the period. He was born at Salwarpe, in Worcestershire, on the 28th January, 1381; and when he was

baptized, King Richard II. and Richard Scrope, Bishop of Coventry and Litchfield (afterwards Archbishop of York), stood as his godfathers. At the coronation of Henry IV., in 1399, he was created a Knight of the Bath; and in the fourth year of his reign, he was appointed by the king to attend him with a body of one hundred men at arms, and three hundred archers. At the coronation of Joan of Navarre, Henry's second wife, in 1403, he performed many gallant feats of arms at the tournaments and festivities which were held upon the occasion; and soon after served in the army against Owen Glendower, and in the battle of Shrewsbury against the Percies, on both of which occasions he exhibited such personal valour that he assisted very much in sustaining the fortunes of the field, and was soon afterwards made a Knight of the Garter. In 1408 he performed a pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre, an event of which an interesting drawing will be found in this Museum, copied from a MS. in the Cottonian collection, by my friend the Rev. John Hill of Cranoe.

On the earl's return home through Poland, Russia, Germany, and Italy, he behaved himself so valiantly at several tilting matches in which he engaged, that he was everywhere received with the greatest honour and respect, and established for himself an European reputation for excellence in feats of arms. After his arrival in England, he was, by an indenture bearing date 2nd October, 12th Henry IV., appointed to attend the Prince of Wales —afterwards Henry V.—upon all occasions of peace and war, both in this realm and beyond the seas; and all readers of Shakespeare will remember him, not only in the second part of King Henry IV., but also in the glorious speech of Henry V. before the battle of Agincourt, when the king says,—

> "Old men forget; yet shall not all forget;
> But they'll remember with advantages,
> What feats they did that day: then shall our names,
> Familiar in their mouths as household words—
> Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter,
> Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester;—
> Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd:
> This story shall the good man teach his son;
> And Crispine Crispian shall ne'er go by,
> From this day to the ending of the world,
> But we in it shall be remembered:
> We, few, we happy few, we band of brothers:
> For he to-day that sheds his blood with me,
> Shall be my brother: be he ne'er so vile,
> This day shall gentle his condition.
> And gentlemen in England, now abed,
> Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here;
> And hold their manhoods cheap, while any speaks
> That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

This was in 1415; and in 1417 the earl was sent to France, attended by 10,000 men, to negotiate the marriage between Harry

and Catherine, the daughter of Charles VI. of France. While there he was met by a body of five thousand horesmen, under the Earls of Vendome and Limousin, which had been sent by the Dauphin to oppose him, on the plea that Henry's marriage was merely contracted in order to secure to himself the succession to the French crown. The Earl of Warwick engaged this formidable force. Both the French generals fell, one of them having been slain by the earl's own hand: about two thousand of their troops were destroyed or taken prisoners; and the earl proceeded on his mission, in which, as it is well known, he ultimately, notwithstanding all the obstacles and difficulties with which he had to contend, entirely and completely succeeded. In 1422, when Henry VI. succeeded to the throne, the Earl of Warwick was made governor of Calais, under John, Duke of Bedford, as Regent of France; and he remained in that country, rendering various important acts of assistance to the English cause during all the troublous times of the Maid of Orleans, up to the conclusion of the treaty of Arras, between England and the house of Burgundy, in 1435. Upon the death of the Duke of Bedford, on the 14th of September in this year, at Rouen, the Earl of Warwick was created Lieutenant General of the realm of France, and of the Duchy of Normandy, which was the highest dignity with which any English subject could be invested. He occupied this distinguished and difficult post with great honour and prudence for four years, and died in possession of it at the Castle of Rouen, on the 30th of April, 1439. After him, his son Henry held the manor, and he also was so distinguished for his martial accomplishments that Henry, in the twenty-fourth year of his reign, created him Duke of Warwick, and bestowed upon him various extraordinary honours and privileges, among which was one of being allowed to eat meat at Lent. He granted him also residences out of the counties of Warwick and Leicester, for the support of his dignities; declared him King of the Isle of Wight, and actually crowned him with his own hands.

The Duke died in the year 1445, and after him we find Everard Digby, an ancestor of the celebrated Sir Everard and Sir Kenelm Digby, holding lands in Kibworth. The name of this ancient family is said to have originally been Tilton, from their having resided at Tilton in this county, and they are supposed to have altered it upon their going to take up their abode at Digby in Lincolnshire, in 1256. In 1461 Everard Digby was attainted for high treason, and in 1465 the manor fell into the hands of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, by his marriage with Ann Beauchamp as heir general of the Beauchamp family. In 1471 the earl was slain at the battle of Barnet, fighting against Edward IV.; and the manor having been taken by Act of Parliament from his widow in consequence of her husband's rebellion, it was given to

her daughters Isabel and Anne. Upon their deaths, however, a new Act of Parliament was passed, and this manor, with others which their mother possessed elsewhere, were in 1487 restored to her. In 1492 it came to Edward, Lord Lisle, by his marriage with Margaret, eldest daughter and co-heir of Richard, Earl of Warwick,—and he officiated, according to ancient custom, as chief pantler at the coronation of Anne Boleyn in 1533. In 1542 John Dudley, Viscount Lisle and Baron Malpas, the then lord, made his servant, Thomas Fisher, high steward of the manor. Dudley was afterwards made Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland, but having lost his life and all his honours for treason against Queen Mary, in 1553, the manor fell to the crown; and in 1559 Elizabeth granted it to Sir Ambrose Dudley, eldest son to the late Duke, by the tenure of grand serjeantry of the service of acting as royal Pantler, in like manner as his father and others of his ancestors, the Earls of Warwick, had held it. In 1589 Sir Ambrose died without issue, having been created Earl of Warwick and a Knight of the Garter, and the manor, therefore, once more reverted to the crown. We afterwards find it in the possession of Anthony Ward, and in 1602 in that of Rev. Dr. John Berridge, who also held the advowson.

Subsequently to this the title, manor, and advowson were sold; and in 1728 it was purchased by Sir Richard Halford, who petitioned the Lords Commissioners, at the coronation of George II. and Queen Caroline, to be allowed to act as Grand Pantler in consideration of his lordship of the manor. It was, however, ruled upon this occasion that, owing to the manor having been granted to Sir Ambrose Dudley in tail male, and his having died without issue, it reverted again to the crown, and consequently that the claim to the service of pannetry by right of family tenure was extinct. The Halfords have, however, been lords of the manor ever since, although, alas, they are no longer permitted to draw corks at the coronation. Harcourt was held by various members of the Harcourt family between 1197 and 1347 when the warden and fellows of Merton College, Oxford, held the manor of Sir William de Harcourt in pure and perpetual alms. In 1633 a confirmation was granted to the College of the manor and all its appurtenances, and in 1771 the advowson was purchased by the Society for £3000.

Having thus briefly endeavoured to sketch the descent of the manors of Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt from the earliest period down to comparatively modern times, I have only to apologize to you for the necessarily imperfect manner in which my task has been accomplished; and for any errors or omissions which I have made, to beg the indulgence of those who must be so much more intimately acquainted than I, as a stranger, can be, with the history and antiquities of this fertile and most interesting county.

The Rev. M. F. F. Osborn, Rector of Kibworth, and President of the Meeting, next read the following Paper on the

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF KIBWORTH.

Most of those who hear me are aware that the name Kibworth, as popularly used, includes the parishes, lordships, or manors of Kibworth Harcourt, Kibworth Beauchamp, and Smeeton Westerby, although this latter parish by an order of Council, dated 1852, has no longer any ecclesiastical connection with Kibworth. They are aware, moreover, that Kibworth Beauchamp is ecclesiastically the mother parish, and Kibworth Harcourt a hamlet of it; such also was Smeeton Westerby (in itself properly two distinct villages), though now no longer so, in consequence of the severance just mentioned.

In offering to this Meeting a paper on such portions of the history and records of the antiquities of Kibworth as I have been enabled to trace, I will begin with Kibworth Harcourt, as that which claims precedence from me out of respect to the possessors of the Manor, with whom I have the honour of being connected, and from the fact that this Manor has been in the uninterrupted and undisputed possession of Merton College, Oxford, for almost 600 years, while the Manor of Kibworth Beauchamp has changed hands several times, as also that of Smeeton Westerby.

MANOR OF KIBWORTH HARCOURT.

From the earliest date of certain record the family of the Harcourts were in possession of the manor of the parish which has ever since been called by their name. 1. The earliest document which I have obtained from the Rolls in the Treasury of Merton College, is a writing or charter of Richard de Harcourt, the Lord of Harcourt, to his son Saer (or Seher), granting to him his Manor of Kibworth; this is attested among others by Simon de Montfort, and therefore must have been before the battle of Evesham, A.D. 1265, at which Simon de Montfort was killed.

2. The next document is a charter of S. de Harcourt to John le Ferrun, a citizen of London, granting to him his Manor of Kibworth Harcourt, together with the *vivaria*, mills, fisheries, &c, except the advowson of the Chapel of Kibworth Harcourt, of the value of twenty "solidi" per annum, attested by William of Kileby (Kilby).

3. Charter of John le Ferrun to his special friend Walter de Merton, late Chancellor of England and Bishop of Rochester, in the reign of Henry II., wishing him "sempiternam salutem," granting to him the Manor of Kibworth Harcourt, A.D. 1269, attested by Robert de Wyvill.

4. 1269. Saer de Harcourt confirms the above grant of the Manor to Walter de Merton, with a reserved rent of twenty solidi.

5. 1271. Final agreement between Walter de Merton and Saer de Harcourt.

6. 1272. Concession of the Manor to Walter de Merton by William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, the feudal superior.

. . "manerium
Quod est de feodo nostro."

Walter de Beauchamp, steward to King Henry I., married Emeline, daughter and heir to Urso de Abitor, by Adeliza his wife, brother to Robert le Despencer (*i. e.*, steward) to King William the Conqueror, "Cujus terra est Chiburde sc. Roberti Dispensatoris." He lived at Smeeton.*

7. Letter of the same to his bailiffs, to give to Walter de Merton peaceable possession of the said manor.

8. Walter de Merton leaves eight marks to his sister Edith, wife of Thomas Tayllard.

Although Walter de Merton intended this Manor for the College which he had founded at Oxford, and mentions it among several other estates he had assigned to them in his second charter of 1270, and makes a particular provision out of it in a memorandum at the end of his charter, and although in the preceding instrument I have lately quoted by William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and also the composition between Richard de Harcourt and the college, made in the twelfth year of Edward I., each assert the Founder's concession of this manor to his college, yet there is no legal conveyance of it extant, as there is of his other estates; on the contrary, he made grants out of it before he died, as, *e.g.*, to his sister Edith as in the immediately preceding instrument. Accordingly by an inquisition held at Leicester in the sixth year of Edward I. (1281), it was declared that Walter de Merton died seised of the Manor of Kibworth, and that his six heirs were—Christiana de Wortynge, Agnes de Ewelle, Edith Tayllard, Peter de la Clyve, Richard Olyver, Alan de Portesmue. This being the case, each of these six heirs shortly after gave up their shares in the manor to Merton College for a certain consideration in money, but with a view to carry out the founder's intentions, and for the good of the College. Christiana de Wortynge, Agnes de Ewelle, and Edith Tayllard, devised their shares to their sons, and these sons' shares were bought by the College, together with the share of Alan de Portesmue, previously to which Peter de la Clyve and Richard Olyver had sold their portions. Part of the consideration in the case of Peter de la Clyve was that

* See Kibworth Beauchamp.

his two sons should be educated free at Merton College, and should have a reasonable allowance for food and clothing, one gown and cap a year, two pair of linen "pannorum," six pair of socks, and three pair of shoes, "si tanto indigeant."

While these surrenders of the shares of the heirs of Walter de Merton were going on, Sir Saer de Harcourt gives up the whole reserved rent of 20s, "totum dominium manerii," except half a mark from his tenement of Newton (Neuenthon) and Glen, "provisu franchii plegii; quem visum deō Epō et hæredibus cum manerio dimisi." Thus the college, in virtue of these grants, became in the place of the former superior lord, besides their actual possession of the manor.

The next document in connection with this manor is a composition between Richard de Harcourt (the succeeding heir of Saer de Harcourt) lord of Bosworth, and Merton College, whereby he grants the estate and chapel of Kibworth Harcourt to the College, to be held of him and his heirs for ever, as of the appurtenances of the manor of Bosworth, rendering half a mark a year, and a knight's fee on the death or cession of every Warden of the College. Receipts of this half mark, called the Harcourt noble, occur in 1394 and 1416; it is also mentioned as a yearly charge from the manor in the rentals of 12 Henry VII. c. 28, Elizabeth 1586. It seems to have been paid as late as 1748, but not since.

In 1297, Henry de Fotheringhay and Robert de Candevere assigned certain lands to the Warden and scholars of Merton College, and in 1325 the said Warden held the lands of John de Harcourt by the service of half a knight's fee.

Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick (1314) gave up to John de Wantyngge, Warden of Merton College; and Thomas de Beauchamp, his son (1345), gave up to Robert de Trenge, Warden, all his right over the lands bought from Henry de Fotheringhay and Robert de Candevere by the college "præter servitia."

Lastly, in 1633, (I. Pars. Original 9 Car. I. Rot. 65,) a confirmation was granted to the college of their property at Kibworth and in other counties. There was a chapel of Kibworth Harcourt concerning which I speak more particularly in a subsequent part of this Paper: it was probably founded about 1260, and the King granted the advowson to Walter de Merton in 1270; the foundation may, however, have been earlier.

MANOR OF KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP.

The first grant of land in the manor of Kibworth or Chiburde, was made in the reign of Edward the Confessor to Edwin Alford, who also held lands at Fleckney and Wistow, and was no doubt the progenitor of the honoured family of Halford of Wistow. At the time of the Domesday Book Survey (1080) the manors

were granted to Robertus Dispensator, *i.e.*, Robert the Steward or Butler, whose name was subsequently refined into Despenser by a self-legalizing process. William the Conqueror bestowed lands upon him for services performed about his royal person. In 1221 we find that the manor of Kibworth Beauchamp was held of King Henry III. by Walter de Bello Campo, or Beauchamp, by the service of being chief Panteler* to the King on the day of his coronation. This service was performed by him in 1246. In that year the King granted to him to hold a weekly market on his manor of Kibworth on Monday. This manor continued in the family of the Beauchamps till 1369, when Philippa, wife of Guy, Earl of Warwick, deceased, held both the manor and advowson of Kibworth on condition of placing a napkin upon the King's table on Christmas day, the duties of a butler being naturally considered unsuitable for one of the fair sex. In 1384 the Countess Philippa died, and the manor passed to some other descendants of the Warwick family, respecting whom there is nothing specially worthy of record, until in 1406 it came to Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was one of the most eminent and distinguished personages of the period. He was born at Salwarpe, in Worcestershire, in 1381, and King Richard II. and Scroope, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, afterwards Archbishop of York, stood sponsors at his baptism. I must pass over his many and distinguished military exploits, only recalling to your recollection Shakespeare's mention of him in the second part of King Henry IV., and the heart-stirring speech of Henry V. before the battle of Agincourt. He made a pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre, and on his return home through Germany, Italy, and other countries of the Continent, he behaved himself so valiantly at several tilting matches in which he was engaged, that he was everywhere received with the greatest honours, and established for himself a European reputation for feats of arms. In return for his pre-eminent military and diplomatic services, he was created Lieutenant-General of the realm of France and of the Duchy of Normandy, the highest dignity which an English subject could attain. He died in possession of it in 1439. After him his son Henry held the manor, and he was also so distinguished for his martial accomplishments that King Henry created him Duke of Warwick, and bestowed on him extraordinary honours and privileges. He granted him lands in the counties of Warwick and Leicester, made him King of the Isle of Wight, and actually crowned him with his own hands. The Duke died in 1445, and afterwards we find Everard Digby, ancestor of the celebrated Sir Everard and Sir Kenelm Digby, holding lands at Kibworth. In 1461 Everard Digby was attainted of high treason, and in 1465 the manor passed into the hands of

* Variously called Panteler, Pantler, or Panneter.

Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, by his marriage with Ann Beauchamp, as heir general of the Beauchamp family. In 1471 the Earl was slain at the battle of Barnet, fighting against Edward IV. The manor was taken from his widow and afterwards restored to her. In 1492 it came to Edward, Viscount Lisle, by his marriage with Margaret, oldest daughter and co-heir of Richard, Earl of Warwick, who officiated as chief Panteler at the coronation of Anne Boleyne. In 1504 one Grey died seised of the manor held of the King *in capite*. Dudley, Viscount Lisle, afterwards (1547) Earl of Warwick and (1551) Duke of Northumberland, having lost his life and lands for treason against Queen Mary in 1553, the manor fell to the crown, and in 1559 Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Ambrose Dudley, who died in 1589 without issue, having been created Earl of Warwick and a Knight of the Garter, and it once more therefore reverted to the crown. In 1590 Anthony Ward was seised of the manor. In 1602 Doctor John Beridge,* Precentor of Lincoln Cathedral and Rector of this parish, possessed the manor and also the advowson of the church. His son William was also Rector, and John the son of William died without issue. The manor and advowson were then sold. The advowson was redeemed; but in 1685-8 a fine was levied on manor and advowson, under which Sir Richard Halford, Bart., purchased the manor and held it till his death in 1727, keeping courts there annually. In 1728 Sir W. Halford petitioned to be allowed to execute the office of Great Panteler at the coronation of George II., an office which had been attached to the holder of the manor of Kibworth Beauchamp, but the claim was disallowed. At the end of the last century the Earl of Denbigh was lord of the manor in right of his Countess, relict of Sir Charles Halford, Bart. The lordship of the manor is now in the family of the Halfords of Wistow, and their courts have been held here from time to time.

MANOR OF SMEETON WESTERBY.

This place consisted formerly of two distinct villages, Smeeton and Westerby. Smeeton is variously written, Smitone, Smetherton, and Esmeditone in ancient writings. In Domesday book one ploughland and two oxgangs are described as being of the royal demesne, being part of the manor of Great Bowden. Robert Despenser held three ploughlands in Esmeditone; he also held one ploughland and two oxgangs in Witenesta, which from its situation in Domesday Book and from the similarity of the name, seems to be Westerby. In 1297, Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, the

* His lineal descendant, and munificent church restorer, the Rev. Basil Beridge, Rector of Algarkirk, Lincolnshire, lately visited this parish, and restored the memorial brass, in the north chancel wall, to the memory of his ancestor, who was Rector of Kibworth for thirty years.

king's brother, died seised of lands at Smeeton. The family of the Braybrokes, in Northants, were formerly lords of the manor here, and it passed by marriage into that of the Latimers. Members of this family and others were seized of lands held under the Earl of Warwick, and of the Turviles of Normanton. In 1361 Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster, died seized of a knight's fee in Smeeton and Westerby, held by Hugh Turvile. In 1415 Henry V. granted the manor of Smeeton and Westerby to Henry, Archbishop of Canterbury; Henry, Bishop of Winchester, Thomas, Bishop of Durham, and several others. Sixteen years later, Margaret, wife of Edward Latimer, died seised of the same, held of Richard de Turvile. In 1509 it was held of the King by the family of Griffin, which family alienated it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In 1628 it was granted with the manor of Foxton to Charles Harbord, and shortly afterwards it was conveyed by him to William Lewis and others. The present lord of the manor of Smeeton is H. H. Hungerford, Esq. of Dingley.

THE PARISH CHURCH, VILLAGE, &c.

I shall not enter at length upon the subject of the parish church of Kibworth, dedicated to S. Wilfrid, Founder of Ripon Church and Monastery, and Bishop of York. We have had the opportunity of hearing an account of it from Mr. Slater to-day. I will confine myself here to remarking that it evidently occupied an important position among county churches, befitting an important village. This probably is, in a great measure, attributable to the possession of the manor by persons of distinction.* It is probable also that as the present church was built soon after Merton College came into possession of the manor of Kibworth Harcourt, they may have taken an active share in, or at least promoted, the enlargement and improvement of the church, especially as this was built *about* the time (say 1350, the date of the nave, aisles, and chancel) which is worth noting, that the chapel of Kibworth Harcourt ceased to exist. For in 1379, Thomas Hulman, S. T. B., "Wicliffii Sectator," was inducted into "*the ground* of the said chapel," thereby showing that no fabric then existed; but the chapelry was endowed with a certain amount of land, and the College continued to present to it till 1509, or near the Reformation, though it had long become a sinecure. Some time previously the Bishop of Lincoln directed a court of inquiry concerning the vacancy of the chapelry.† The spot on which the chapel stood

* There is considerable similarity between Kibworth and Wigston churches, and it is probable that both churches had the same architect.

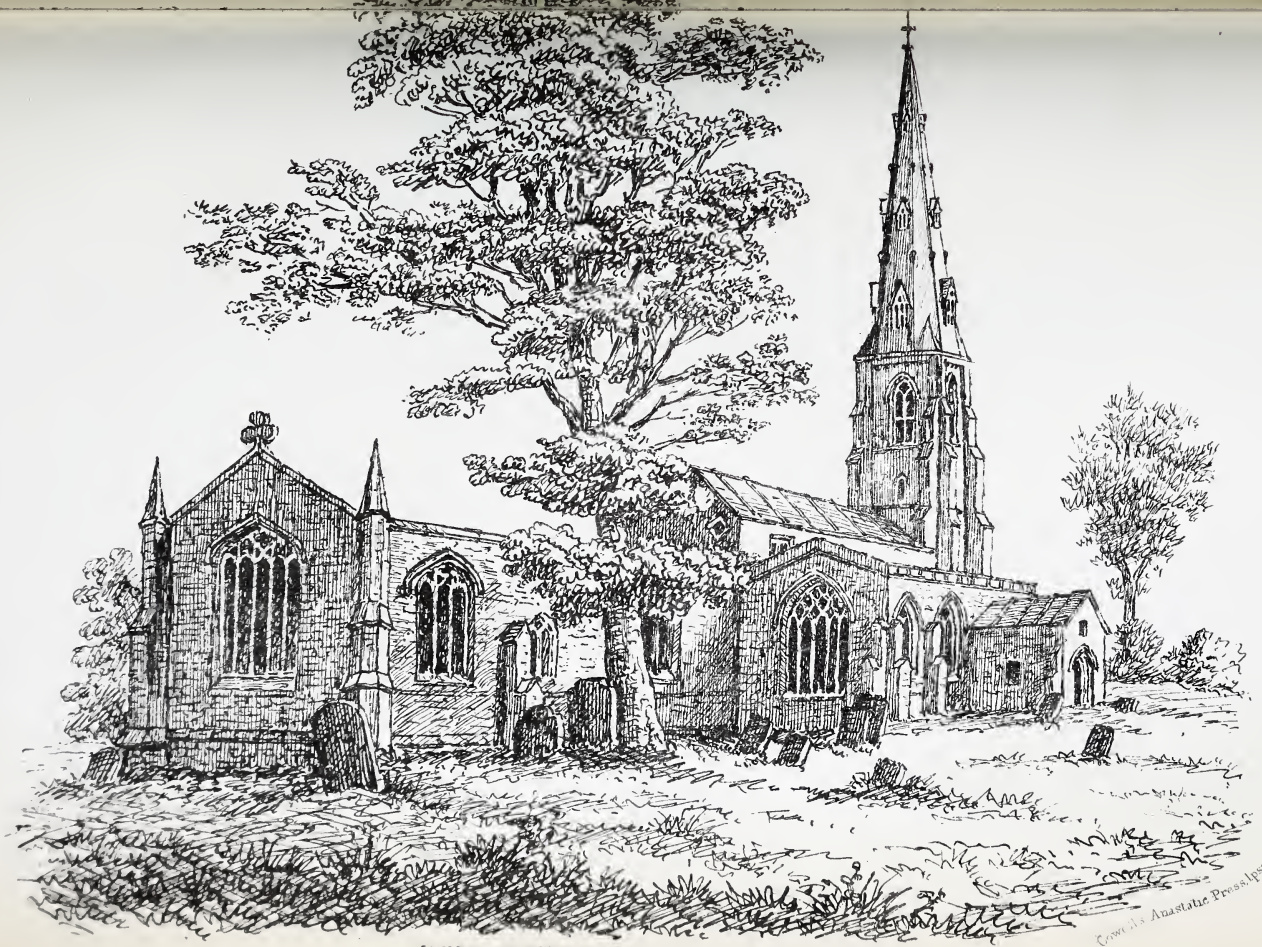
† List of Priests or Chaplains of the chapel of Kibworth Harcourt.—1274, Master Walter, an acolyte (it was then called the chapel of Wytside). 1366, Simon de Lanborne. 1379, Thomas Hulman. 1385, John Bloxham. 1446, Thomas Roberd (died). 1446, Henry Sever. 1447, John Arundell. 1459, Henry Sever. 1509, William Spark (resigned). 1509, William Knight.

has been pointed out to you to-day (it forms a corner of the upper portion of the field called "The March,") and it was called "The Sanctuary," in the remembrance of persons now living. There was also a church or chapel at Smeeton or Westerby, for accounts vary; but certainly for between 400 and 500 years S. Wilfrid's church served as the church of the three parishes till 1849, when the present church at Smeeton was built. The chancel or priest's door, which is of the style called "Early English," or "First Pointed," shows that a church of that style and date, *i.e.*, the twelfth century, preceded the present; and this doubtless succeeded an earlier church.*

When the Rector of the parish was forcibly ejected from the living in the time of the Commonwealth, a person who styled himself the Rev. John Yaxley, but who was really a captain in the army, and had served for many years in the Parliamentary army against King Charles I., usurped the living by appointment of the Parliamentary Committee at Leicester for thirteen years, till the lawful Rector was again restored. Yaxley turned the font out of the church, and it became a trough for watering; and some years after it was in the yard of one Robert Brown, one of the officers under Captain Yaxley. This font was buried in the churchyard for many years; it was afterwards—about twenty-four years ago—in the possession of the Rev. James Beresford, late Rector of this parish. At his decease it came into the possession of J. Marriott, Esq., of Kibworth Harcourt, who, having had it repaired where necessary and placed on a new base, restored it to the church. The style of this font exactly coincides with that of the rest of the church.

On July 23rd, 1825, the beautiful tower and spire, 159 feet high, fell down while under repair, and after a long delay the present tower was built, after the model of East Carlton in the county of Northampton. The old tower and spire greatly resembled that of Brampton-Ash, in the same county. In 1846 the whole of the interior of the church was refitted with open seats; in 1854 the whole of the stone work of the church—windows, arches, pillars, and porches—was relieved of numerous coats of whitewash and colouring. In 1860 the flat roof and ceiling of the chancel, and the blockade of the chancel arch were removed, a new roof erected, and a new east window inserted. Four new buttresses also, in character with the other buttresses of the church, were built on either side of the east wall of the chancel, replacing two hexagonal buttresses at the angle of the wall. The western arch was restored, or rather reconstructed, to replace that which was destroyed by the fall of the tower in 1825 and not rebuilt, thereby throwing open the tower and west window to the church.

* It is possible that the capitals and base of the sedilia are coeval with the chancel door.



KIBWORTH CHURCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
in 1801

During the last year three new roofs have been placed upon the nave and aisles, replacing old ones more or less in a state of decay, and which had been underceiled about fifty years ago. The whole of the whitewash also has been removed from the walls and doors, and rough stucco substituted. An organ was placed in the church in 1856, and the east window of the north aisle was filled with stained glass in memory of the late J. B. Humfrey, Esq., of Kibworth Hall. In the course of the late restorations a piscina was opened in the east end of the south aisle, corresponding to, though not precisely in the same position as, that in the north aisle. There is a staircase leading up to the skreen from the end of the south aisle, but as the steps were much dilapidated, and the entrance unsightly and inconvenient, and also caused a draught, it has been closed up, though to the great regret of Archæologists.* The present piscina in the chancel is after the pattern of the original one removed and not restored when the east end of the chancel was rebuilt in 1817. The curious deeply splayed window in the south chancel wall, the use of which is not clearly intelligible, was opened in 1852; the two still more singular windows over the chancel arch more recently. The rebuilding of the spire, which of course could not have the same character as the former, which was a very beautiful "broach" spire, is a question which I will leave to the opinions of our learned friends here to-day.

The Free Grammar School in Kibworth Beauchamp in which we are now assembled, is of a date so ancient as to be unknown. Nichols thinks it was founded probably towards the close of the fifteenth century, or about one hundred and fifty years after the church. But in the year 1722, some persons who made a complaint respecting its management to the Court of Chancery, state "that several hundred years ago divers messuages, lands, and tenements, had been vested in trustees for the maintenance of a free school at Kibworth." In a bill in Chancery, in the time of Henry VII., the plaintiffs set forth that certain lands and tenements in Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt, Smeeton Westerby and Carlton Curlieu, were heretofore given for the maintenance of a free Grammar School and schoolmaster in Kibworth. In 1601 the statute about charitable uses was made, and a commission of inquiry into Kibworth school was directed in 1614 upon this statute to certain commissioners; and on an inquisition held in 1625, it was found that certain messuages, lands, &c., in the occupation of Thomas Kilpeck, Thomas Vale, Rowland Wood,

* The chancel skreen has been most effectively and faithfully restored, 1868, by Mr. J. Wilson, of Kibworth Beauchamp, under the direction of W. Slater, Esq., but much of the details is original on his part. It is, in fact a re-construction, as but very slender relics of the ancient skreen remained.

Christopher Glover Marriott, Nicholas Kind, John Foxton, Zachary Chapman and others, had been given to the maintenance of a free Grammar School and master, the commissioners decreed and confirmed this use; and that the schoolmaster should build a schoolhouse in Kilpeck's close, and make leases for twenty-one years, not under the proper value. Two leases are extant, of the date of Henry VII., for Kilpeck's farm of two yardlands to be held *in perpetuum*. Since then there have been various disputes respecting this charity, and various enfeoffments and orders made thereupon. In 1725, Francis Edwards, Esq. (the representative of a family possessed of considerable property at Kibworth Beauchamp and Smeeton, which has since been alienated by sale), a great benefactor, took down the school-room, an inferior building and much out of repair, and rebuilt it in the present form, with the master's house adjoining, about fifty yards from the site of the old school, at his own expense; hitherto there had been no schoolmaster's house. This Grammar School is free to the sons of all parents resident in Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt, and Smeeton Westerby: about the end of the last century there were about one hundred scholars. The earliest documents on record, referred to in 1709, require that reading, writing, grammar, and arithmetic, and Latin if desired, shall be taught, and that the master shall be, and shall remain, a clergyman of the Church of England. The last scheme from the Court of Chancery for the management of this school was made in 1822, and the last election of Trustees took place in 1860. The National School was built in 1842.

The old Rectory house—almost in living memory—occupied the position of the present Railway Station, and there is a tradition that Oliver Cromwell slept in it the night before the battle of Naseby; a room in the house was always called "Oliver's room."

There was an ancient stone cross which used to stand nearly opposite the manor house in Kibworth Harcourt on the opposite side of the road. It was somewhat dilapidated, and was unfortunately taken down forty-five years ago instead of being restored. The base may still be seen in one of the opposite fields.

The oldest house in Kibworth Harcourt and in the whole parish is the manor house; in Kibworth Beauchamp the house occupied by Mr. Buzzard; and in Smeeton Westerby the house occupied by Mr. T. Jesson. The remains of the oldest house may be seen a little higher up the road on the same side, formerly occupied by ancestors of the family of Cobley in this parish.

In a close in Kibworth Harcourt, called Hall Close, is a large mound surrounded with a single ditch, with a circumference at the bottom of 122 yards, and its diameter at the top about sixteen yards. There is an elevated barrow connected with it, which as you know has been just opened under the auspices of the Archæological Society, and is believed to have been a burying place.

Fragments of bones and pieces of Samian pottery have been discovered on the present occasion.

In 1564 Nichols says there were eighty-two families in Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt, and Smeeton Westerby; and the freeholders in 1630 were William Ward, William Innocent, Richard Clarke, Thomas Parsons, and John Storer. In 1722 twenty-two freeholders polled at an election from Kibworth Beauchamp, fifteen from Kibworth Harcourt, thirty from Smeeton, and one from Westerby. In 1775 twenty-three from Kibworth Beauchamp, nine from Kibworth Harcourt, and thirty-one from Smeeton Westerby. Nichols, writing at the end of the last century, says, that the population was 1300 (the present population is 1867, viz., Kibworth Beauchamp 868, Kibworth Harcourt 466, Smeeton Westerby 533), and that two-thirds of the men were employed in husbandry, and some few manufacturers; that in the whole parish there were twenty-four teams kept; in Kibworth Beachamp there was formerly a tannery manufactory carried on, now nearly laid aside; in the other parishes there is a little stocking weaving; spinning of worsted with the two-handed wheel is very generally used, being the principal employment of the women. In 1779-1780, the enclosure of the parishes took place, and 3900 acres* were enclosed. The present gross acreage of the parish is 3967, of which 1370 are in Kibworth Harcourt, 1359 in Smeeton Westerby, and 1238 in Kibworth Beauchamp. Since the enclosure the proportion of pasture land to arable has much increased, though of late years a slight reaction has taken place. Sir F. Morton Eden, author of a valuable book called "The State of the Poor, or a history of the labouring classes in England from the Conquest to the present time," (1797) says, speaking of this parish at that time—

"The prices of provisions are, beef, 4½d. to 5d. a lb.; mutton, 5d.; veal, 3½d.; butter, 9½d. to 10d.; bread 3½d. a lb., or 1s. for 4 lbs.; coals, 1s. 1d. a cwt.; potatoes, 6d. a gallon; milk, ½d. the pint, but of this little is sold. The wages of labour vary much; a common labourer in husbandry earns about 8s. 6d. a week in winter, and 10s. or 12s. in summer; women spin worsted, and can earn 6d. to 10d. a day; children of twelve or fourteen years old earn about 6d. a day by spinning. In Kibworth Beauchamp there are two alehouses, in Kibworth Harcourt four, in Smeeton Westerby two. The average value of land is about 25s. an acre; nine-tenths of the land is pasture; there are no commons nor waste lands in the parish. The rates before the enclosure of the parish were not one-third of what they are at present; and the people attribute the rise of them to the enclosure; for they say before the fields were enclosed they were solely applied to the cultivation of corn, and the poor had plenty of employment in weeding, reaping, threshing, &c., and could collect a great deal of corn by gleaning, but that the fields being now in pasturage, the farmers have little occasion for labourers, who, being thrown out of employment, must of course be supported by the

* About 148 yard-lands.

parish. One-third or one-fourth of the men who were required twenty years ago, would now be sufficient to perform all the farming work in the parish. At this time many labourers are getting work at a canal cutting in the neighbourhood, otherwise the rates must have been higher. In the winter when a man is out of work he applies to the overseer, who sends him from house to house to get employ; the housekeeper who employs him gives him his victuals and 6d. a day; the parish adds 4d. for the family. Persons working in this manner are called roundsmen. The tradesmen, small farmers, and graziers are very loud in their complaints against those whom they call monopolizing farmers and graziers, an evil which they say increases every year. The poor complain of bad treatment from the overseers, and the overseers accuse the poor of being saucy."

This complaint on the part of the labouring population on account of the laying down arable into pasture is not new; in the reign of Henry VIII. we hear of riots in parts of the country from the same cause. Reflections on political economy form no part of my subject; I will not therefore go beyond the above statement of facts. Although the stocking-frame had been invented long before this time,* yet probably it had not come into the villages to any great extent many years before, but it must certainly have assisted to employ part of the surplus population thrown out of employ by the enclosure. In 1680 it is generally asserted that stocking making began in Leicester in a house at the North Gate. But great opposition, as you well know, was shewn to the new frames by the knitters for many years, and in 1792 three thousand frames were employed in Leicester and the surrounding villages, Kibworth no doubt being among the number. The first cotton-stocking frame was made in 1760. Owing to riots and destruction of machinery by the Luddites, an Act of Parliament passed in 1812, made it death to break a stocking-frame. Sir F. M. Eden, before quoted, gives an account of the regular pensioners on the poor list of Kibworth Beauchamp in 1795, and this may serve as a specimen for Kibworth Harcourt and Smeeton Westerby.†

* By Rev. W. Lee, of Calverton, Nottinghamshire, 1589.

†	AGE	MONEY s.	d.	COALS s.	d.
A weaver's widow	50	3	6	0	7½
A man with two grandchildren ..	65	10	0	0	11½
A stocking weaver	60	1	0	0	7½
A labourer and family	40	0	0	0	7½
A stocking weaver	55	0	0	0	7½
A labourer ..	50	0	6	0	7½
Ditto. ..	50	1	6	0	7½
Ditto. ..	55	2	0	0	7½
A labourer's widow	55	0	0	0	7½
A soldier's child	7	2	6		
A spinster ..	40	1	6		
A bastard child		1	6		
Two old men at Leicester ..		4	0		
A spinster ..	55	5	0		
A weaver and family	40	4	0		
A weaver and three children ..	40	2	0		
A weaver and four children ..	30	3	0		
A labourer and six children ..	35	4	0		
Money		2	6	0	
Coals		0	5	11½	
		£2	11	11½	

The following appears to have been taken down from the lips of a labourer in this parish by Sir F. M. Eden, in August, 1795:—

"The labourer is forty years of age; has a wife and five young children; about half the year he worked at the canal, and had 2s. a day; when the weather prevented his working, the parish allowed him 1s. 2d. a day. For the twenty-six weeks from Michaelmas he earned £11. 1s., for the Spring quarter he earned £5. 17s.; for the Summer quarter, including victuals allowed, £8. 18s. 6d.; eldest girl earns 2s. a week by spinning; total earnings, £31. 10s. 6d. The parish pay the man's rent, find him coals, occasionally give him wearing apparel, and lately 2s. a week. Six pounds of bread are used daily; this used to be 10d., but of late has been 2s., and now is 1s. 6d.; this alone is £27. 6s. a year. The man says they use little or no potatoes, seldom get butter, nor oatmeal; buy a little cheese, and sometimes have meat on a Sunday; his wife and daughter drink a little tea; that they would use much more bread if they could afford it, that his children are almost naked and half-starved; he has lately worked many days with only bread diet, and has not tasted beer for many weeks. In 1776 the poor rates for Kibworth Beauchamp were £65. 16s. 6d.; for Kibworth Harcourt, £54. 9s. 6d.; for Smeeton Westerby, £78. 6s. 8d. In 1784, £147. 14s. 4d. = 2s. 9d. in the pound in Kibworth Beauchamp, and in 1795, £205. = 4s. in the pound; in Smeeton Westerby much higher."

The following I have gathered out of the Parish Registers as some of the most interesting specimens of their contents.

"1641. Know all men, that the reason why little or nothing is registered from this year till the year 1649, was the civil wars between King Charles and his parliament, which put all into a confusion till then, and neither ministers nor people could quietly stay at home for one party or the other.

"1651. Buried Elizabeth Bryan, an ancient maide of Kibworth Harcourt, March 15.

"1654. On Wednesday, the 5th of April, about nine o'clock at night, the English Commissioners and the Dutch Ambassadors (after many great sea fights, and much loss both of the Dutch and English side), totally finished the ratifications of the peace, the articles being wholly agreed for Holland and Denmark with us, and they were then signed by the Lords Ambassadors on the one side, with full power from the Estates; and the Lords Commissioners, with full power from the Lord Protector, on the other side; and sealed and delivered on both sides; (then, in another handwriting) 'To God be all the glory.'

"1658. Know, that Oliver, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the dominions and territories thereunto belonging, departed this life, September 3, 1658, and that his eldest son, the Lord Richard Cromwell, was immediately proclaimed Lord Protector.

"1660. Buried, Richard West, of Kibworth Harcourt, about one hundred years old.

"1665. The towne of Smeeton was visited with the plague this year.

"1678. Given towards the rebuilding the Cathedral Church of S.

Paul's, London, £3. 18s. 8d., whereof 40s. was given by the Rector of the Parish, £1. 18s. 8d. by the Parishioners.

"1680. Collected in the whole parish towards the redemption of the English captives in Algiers, £4. 8s. 8d.

"1681. Collected towards the French Protestants, £1. 13s. 3d.

"1684. Collected for the fire at Newmarket, and paid to Master Ward, Bookseller at Leicester, by the Archdeacon's order, 14s. 2d.

"1695. Collected towards the relief of the sufferers at Warwick, the summe of £6. 17s., and paid in to the Archdeacon.

"1706. "Joyce Eastwood, widow, in the 106th year of her age, of Kibworth Beauchamp, bury'd May 2.

"1811. Collected for the British Prisoners in France, after a sermon preached for them on the occasion, May 5, the sum of £8. 8s. 7d. J. Goodman, Curate."

The Parish Register dates from 1574, or two hundred and ninety years ago; the oldest names of that date now remaining among us are, Brian, Carter, Grant, Innocent, Iliff, Smeeton, Lenton, Clarke, Goodman, Swingler, Oswin, Bale, Mitchell, Coleman, Branston, Mattock, Bent, Cobley, Weston, Ward; most, if not all, of these being two hundred and fifty years old, some two hundred and ninety. The word "husbandman" occurs for labourer in the earlier parts of it.

The first coach from Leicester to London commenced running through Kibworth in 1774, and the first mail in 1785. The former was drawn by six horses, and the passengers slept two nights on the road, at Northampton and Dunstable. For some years before the construction of the London and North Western Railway, twenty-eight coaches, up and down, ran through Kibworth daily. The first milestone on the Glenn Road, was the half-way stone between London and Manchester. The portion of the turnpike-road between the "Rose and Crown" and "The Lodge," was made about 1806; previous to which date it took the winding course by the "Fox," the "Old House," and the "Manor House," until numerous accidents induced the alteration.

Many, doubtless, have been born, or passed their lives in Kibworth Harcourt, Kibworth Beauchamp, or Smeeton Westerby, men of renown or of distinguished merit, whose names are unknown or unrecorded. Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester, and Lord High Chancellor of England—more than once Regent of the Kingdom in the King's absence—one of the most eminent and honoured men of his day, the pious and munificent founder of Merton College, died 1277. John Bloxham, Warden of Merton College, and Archdeacon of Winchester, died 1387; Henry Sever, Chancellor of Oxford, 1443; Provost of Christ's College, Cambridge, 1441, and Warden of Merton College; men of wide renown, may fairly be mentioned as having been Chaplains of Kibworth Harcourt. Passing over the eminent mediæval Lords of the

Manor,* we have in later times the Rev. Dr. John Beridge, the Rev. J. Jennings, who kept a School in Kibworth Harcourt, and had the eminent Dr. Doddridge for a pupil, who at his death in 1723 succeeded to his school. Dr. John Aikin, the physician and literary writer, was born here in 1747; Mrs. Barbauld and Lucy Aikin, both well-known writers, were his sisters.

S. Wilfrid's Church has looked down from its "Church Hill" on many interesting changes and events for more than five hundred years, which we should like to have seen with our eyes, or respecting which we should like to have heard some trustworthy account, *e. g.*, How was the first Kibworth Feast kept? But our work lies with the present, and so to do it, that we may each of us leave some mark for good behind us for the future.

Mr. Vincent Wing next contributed the following Paper (read in his absence by Mr. North), on

THE PRESENT REQUIREMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE IN ORDER TO A SUCCESSFUL COMPETITION WITH ANTIQUITY.

At the beginning of the present century, and for some time previous, our cathedrals and the great works of antiquity were placed amongst the "*Seven Wonders*," without a thought of any future rivalry; now, however, such immense strides of art and engineering are made, that the time has arrived when it ill becomes us to strike our colours ignobly to a less tutored age. The institution of this and like societies having for its object the promotion of architecture, we have to expand the narrow views that are taken; nor are we to yield to the feeble imputations of absurdity when we propose to emulate the successes of former times. Progress is the rule of life, and it behoves us, gigantic as the task may be, to strive to come up to, and excel, those who as yet leave us so far behind.

To improve the system in the practical working, and to increase the encouragement, are the two points to be attended to. With this view it is important, in our efforts for the advancement of architecture, to inquire into the secret of its success when it most flourished; we therefore propose to consider the advantages of former periods, with the suggestions for the recovering of them. We shall confine ourselves to the Gothic style; and intend to corroborate our remarks with criticisms upon some examples both ancient and modern. This latter part of our Paper must form a sequel at a bi-monthly meeting, as time and circumstances forbid

* In the absence of any known derivation, I can only conjecture that the "Warwick Road," from Kibworth Harcourt to Saddington, takes its name from the Warwick family.

its being so extended on the present occasion. The ancient remains which we possess are chiefly ecclesiastical, and they show that an almost incredible amount of interest in the art was sustained for some five centuries; after which the interest subsided, and the indigenous style was abandoned for such as was more or less borrowed and wretchedly insipid in comparison. Now we ask—What was it that kept up this great architectural movement, and secured so great success? And what past advantages, or equivalents, can we regain?

We will name for consideration five things, which we imagine mainly contributed:—1. The demand for cathedral and abbey and other churches of great splendour. 2. The fascination of Gothic design. 3. Seclusion allowing concentration of the architect's whole mind upon his work. 4. No more being carried out under one individual than could receive unlimited attention. 5. Collective help: valuable suggestions in design being accepted by the chief architect from ecclesiastics or others, including the trained body of Freemasons, and not rejected as officious; the religious and artistic object over-riding every other interest. We venture to say it is not that our professional men are inferior in taste and skill to their forefathers—it is owing to a change in the system and patronage of art—that such prodigious fruits do not now appear; and it devolves upon us to make every effort to recover as much as is practicable of the facilities and helps which we have lost.

1. As to ecclesiastical demand—which we mention in the first place; no doubt the feudal system, united with some conscientious feeling of duty on the part of the lords of the soil, was favourable to pecuniary supplies, whilst peculiarities in religious ceremonies and religious life rendered imposing edifices a matter of all absorbing consideration; and we do not expect, nor do we wish for, a return of such times—as one of our poets has it in an exquisite effusion on the *Ruins of Kendal Castle*—

> "Times of rude faith, and ruder men—
> God grant they never may come again!"

But we hope to succeed without those auspices. A sense of what the house of God ought to be in priority over the dwellings of men is all that is required, and that is reviving amongst us; instances are not entirely wanting, where the mansions, or superb "ceiled houses," as the lament of the prophet expresses it, are surpassed, as they should be, by the costly character of the temple. To this quarter—the Church—it is not only right still to look, but we are compelled to do so; for it is not sufficient, in the higher interests of architecture, that secular public buildings and domestic structures be required; the church is infinitely the best sphere, and until the erection of magnificent and gorgeous ecclesiastical edifices comes again into vogue, encouragement to architecture cannot

recover its full proportions. We know it will be said—having as a nation done with monastic establishments and gorgeous ceremonial, the scope for such grandeur is gone. Still, we demur to the inference; and we aver that it is not idle to contend for, at least, the erection of cathedrals of great magnificence. This we must insist upon, much as the contrary impression may prevail; and we can do so on principle as well as in the interest of art. We recommend to be read Mr. Beresford Hope's *Cathedral of the Nineteenth Century*. The notion is erroneous that our Protestant ritual is so precise and simple that it forbids altogether imposing processions; the inspired sentiment of the Hebrew Psalmist teaches better. Much less can it be said, that our principles are so ultra-puritan, that the "sublime and beautiful" of the cathedral are incompatible with Anglican worship. What man, having taste united with his piety, every found it to be so? Who would not deplore the loss of those noble buildings which we possess? Who would condemn the efforts expended on the modern Cathedral of St. Paul? Who would not like to see the insufficient ones of Manchester and Oxford exchanged for better?—or, with the demanded extension of the episcopate, a corresponding provision for the highest solemnities of our religion in the new dioceses? The procession and the large gathering at an ordination, at a visitation, or confirmation, or on any other great occasion, so much aided in effect by cathedral grandeur, with its concomitant sublime tones of music, are not empty pomp pandering to a pseudo-religious feeling, but legitimately impress the mind and heart that the spiritual benefit may be the more lasting. Nor, independently of this, is vacant space in the cathedral a waste, as we hear it objected. The nave as a spacious avenue is most effective for solemnity: the house of God naturally symbolizes heaven, the dwelling-place of the Infinite, and is not necessarily a mere pale for a congregation. The influence of immensity is felt to be not a little potent, and that even in the ordinary services. Witness the confessions of those great men, Milton and Robert Hall, to which even their unecclesiastical spirits were constrained to give utterance. The former, referring to cathedral architecture with the "pealing organ," has the glowing lines,—

> "Dissolve me into ecstasies,
> And bring all heav'n before mine eyes."

And the latter remarked that "he could not enter York Minster without the sublimest and most devout imaginations pouring into his mind." Equally fallacious is the objection, that higher claims would have their support diverted. Our ideas may seem large to those who are not prepared for the demand we make, and they may be greatly distant from realization; but it is little more than a dream of despondency, arising out of the niggard spirit in honouring

our Great Creator, that at present represses nobler aspirations. England's elder University rests content with a provisional cathedral!—an interesting antiquity, but a priory fragment, and little better than a village church! Could we but stir up the people to it, and combine in a new one at Oxford the continental grandeur with the English superiorities—the high vault of Amiens, with the higher lantern, the spacious transept, and "the long drawn aisle" of York—it would produce a consciousness of national advance and universal congratulation. Nor is there occasion for despair: individuals are found now whose offerings to church architecture amount to the hundred thousand; and, with the rapid increase of the country's wealth, it is but reasonable to bespeak this standing acknowledgment and honour to the Giver of our substance. Such becoming employment of the highest class of talent would go far to guarantee to architecture the culmination to be aimed at; for edifices of transcendent magnificence are necessarily very many years in hand, and their erection would furnish what the art most needs, namely, an enduring field for its highest cultivation. On the contrary, if cathedral building is to be passed off as visionary, it is equivalent to quitting in despair: the very sphere required being abandoned, antiquity will only mock the modern architect's attempts at rivalry. In the promotion of architecture, then, our views must be expanded in reference to the Church; the Church must not be left, as it is, in dwarfed proportions, but partake of the general progress. We ought no longer to allow the huge tavern to be looking down on the steeples of our churches! And we hesitate not to say,—if our attainments in the art are to equal those of the ancients, if we are to resuscitate its bygone splendour, and to bequeath to far-off generations equal monuments of our times, magnificent cathedrals and churches must, as formerly, furnish the leading encouragement. To this then it behoves us to stir up the people. We have the superiority in wealth, in intelligence, in mechanical power, and in advantages generally, together with purer inducements,—why are we not in this chief sphere, as in others, aroused to surpass our less favoured predecessors?

2. The next thing we have to allude to is, the fascination experienced by those who designed the structures of the Middle Ages. The extreme pleasure afforded to them is seen unquestionably in the effects. And on this it is unnecessary to dwell, for we doubt not that it will be felt again in a similar degree, if the unlimited opportunities of indulging it return. The sphere itself has no bounds; if the seven notes in music are found inexhaustible, the combinations in Gothic art must be as much so. Be it that a peculiar charm would accompany when all was new; yet, notwithstanding, if the means and demand be presented, the gifted practitioner, finding no limit to his encouragement, will have the same fascination in design as formerly, and revel in a luxury that will never satiate.

Those only who have a true taste for it know its untiring interest. As far as the pleasure in the work is essential in order to recover the success of former times, all is assuring, provided that equal munificence can be called forth.

3. We have, in the third place, to consider, that formerly the whole mind of the man of genius was, in a manner, concentrated unremittingly on his creations. We may imagine how some Peter Lightfoot, or cloistered monk, would pursue uninterruptedly his avocation, as if he lived only to beautify his abbey church; or the æsthetic brilliancy that would be brought to bear from some archbishop devoted to the work, as William de Melton, it may be, during the rise and progress of the nave of York Minster. In this respect past advantages are not to be recovered, for we cannot ask for such seclusion again; but we submit the question,—Can we in our great works, upon the adoption of a more perfect practice and study, obtain its equivalent? If less were undertaken in order that increased attention might be given, possibly equal excellence in design might be attained to; but the difficulty is in the compensation, which must be so regulated as to admit of the required application.

4. This brings us, in the fourth place, to inquire more particularly into the system of practice in the olden time, which gave a circumscribed and a more fixed sphere of labour to the responsible architect. Upon this somewhat obscure subject we cannot enter without first briefly referring to an institution which has its bearing on more than one point before us, we mean Freemasonry; not in the form it has existed in since its revival in the seventeenth century, but in its mediæval system. Much secrecy and mystery attended it, which, connected as it was then with architecture, partly accounts for the obscurity in which history leaves us as to architects and their operations. We know, however, that from a very early date there was an organized fraternity of masons, who, from travelling and observation, as well as practice, gained intelligence, and by well devised plans, communicated the benefit to their whole body as far as practicable; the members constituting an order, partly religious, in some sort, and partly professional, with one object and interest in common. The importance which architecture then possessed as an art can scarcely be overrated; for which reason the organization was fostered by the clergy, the rearing of religious structures was allowed to be monopolized by the freemasons, and it is a fact that ecclesiastics were frequently *associated;* which circumstances render more intelligible the zeal of the masons, both in accumulating, and in confining to themselves the knowledge of their art. It is also evident, from the curious correspondence in the details of work, that the organization was very complete; and, as it is to be inferred from the remains of structures of the later period of the Roman empire, from an universal similarity of

arrangement, that there was a central control, the same principle may have been transferred from Roman usage. The silence of history leaves us very much to conjecture concerning the main agents in the erection of our ancient edifices. The rearing of them, as a trade, would be in the hands of the freemasons (that name implying workers in freestone, or *freestone masons)*, and much would depend on the wardens, who were the foremen of parties of ten of them, and upon the masters; but in a great undertaking some presiding man of genius, whose skill alone qualified him, must have had the chief control. Priests possessing a taste for it were not only associated in freemasonry, but really initiated, and from that class sometimes would arise the preeminent architect. Whether or not practice without association was allowed as legitimate may remain a question, but architectural ability seems, in a great measure, to have worked its way to this position by association with, or development amongst, the freemasons. With the mysteries and emblems that are said to have come down through this channel, from the Greeks and Egyptians even, our enquiry has no concern; but it is material to note that the secrets of the masonic art, whilst confined to themselves, were disseminated unreservedly amongst that body. Selfish ambition and jealousy would thereby be obviated; every man of taste could enter the association, and thereupon his suggestions became the common stock of the fraternity, available to the architect, who would be associated with them in his labours. Hence we may infer that architecture derived no small advantage from freemasonry. In proceeding to consider the limited sphere of the chief architect, we have to note how originality in design was prized as a principal item of merit. For, in contemplating the extraordinary productions of the Middle Ages in the better period, one is struck with the variety and the prolific invention. How diverse is York cathedral from Lincoln for example; how unlike are both to Ely; and so on to Salisbury, Wells, and almost all others. Now this indicates as many chief architects as varieties, and the sphere of labour accordingly limited. It would be a historical problem, to find the same architect to have been the designer of many cathedrals; rather was he engaged only for what he could entirely devote himself to. And, unless similar advantages can be secured, it is vain to look for equal originality and beauty in modern productions. Is it possible then, we are tempted to ask, in any way to bring about a change in the present system? To apportion in some degree, for instance, to leading architects what is more strictly design only; relieving them of much of the constructional responsibilities, and giving such compensation as would command their time more exclusively for the important part devolving upon them? This is a question, which, we are aware, the profession only are competent to grapple with; but as those great attainments

to which we aspire seem in some measure dependent upon it, we shall not be out of place in pressing it on public attention. We conceive such a change is not altogether impracticable. Progress has, in the present century, completed a separation of the labours of the architect from those of the builder; a diversion has been made too in favour of the civil engineer; and we may suppose that a further subdivision of labour in the highest sphere is within the range of possibilty. Or we may ask the question,—can the labours of leading men in any other way be lessened? At present any one, whose brilliant attainments have raised him to eminence, has his reward in a killing amount of work, whereby one great genius, at least, has already fallen a victim; only the same percentage is paid as to the inexperienced. How much better would justice be done on both sides, if, instead of advantage being obtained by the ablest men in the extent of their employment, it were given in increased percentage; this might secure the necessary limitation of labour, and therewith more satisfactory results. It must be evident, that they, whose works are to endure in a manner for all time—being ecclesiastical and national, or of the first class—can only receive and do justice when the opportunity of sufficient application is secured to them; unlimited application carried the day formerly, and without it equal success is not attainable. In a small way France seems to be taking the lead in this matter: there, "some architects, having private property of their own, only make use of their professional acquirements, in the carrying out of the design of one or more tombs, either for their friends or for some great personage: a tomb being regarded by French architects as the highest possible ideal of the art." It is, we apprehend, mainly a question of large and adequate compensation. If so, to obtain it we must look to a greater appreciation of design; this will advance in proportion as a general taste is cultivated; and whilst the effect of such cultivation will be also a corresponding improvement in the art, success in design will attract attention and reciprocally encourage the cultivation of taste. Then, if the movement be fairly commenced such is the disposition of the various influences to run in the same current, that we need not despair of a revolution that will eventually advance architecture again to its supremacy in the school of arts; and the result will leave vestiges, which will command for us an honourable position in the estimate of succeeding generations. The munificient offer for designs for the Liverpool Exchange may be regarded as a good experiment, and encourages what we have ventured to advocate.

5. Lastly, it has been intimated that in mediæval practice help was acceptable to the architect from any quarter. There must have been encouragement to, and ingenuousness in receiving suggestions. At all events, the chief architect would accept them from

his ecclesiastical employer, whether an associated mason or not, in many cases; and in others, where the ecclesiastic might be chief, he would be on terms of candid partnership with his masons. In present circumstances, the amateur part of our question is difficult to be brought to bear, and delicate to broach; but it is necessarily connected with the subject, for the part borne by the amateur in the old system is a leading feature. That formerly Wykeham and others, not professed architects, had their fingers in work which is now held in such rapturous admiration, can scarcely be denied. Alan de Walsingham, the sacrist at Ely, became architect of the cathedral, and after the fall of its centre gave its culminating grandeur. A bishop of Noyon was originally an artisan, and rose to that eminence from his skill as a goldsmith. Other examples might be referred to; but these are sufficient to show how, in those days, the interests of the church, excluding considerations of personal fame, gave to skill and taste an open door. Assistance then was accepted wherever merit recommended it, and taste was invited in whatever brain it existed; appetite for beauty, together with religious zeal, having sway over every other feeling. The bishop, with the clergy around him and a troop of freemasons, would form a college of artists; eager, not only to devise, but to obtain from every source, whatever would tend to the adornment and splendour of their cathedral. It is true that circumstances are now very different; we live not in a recluse, but a mercantile age, and the trade element is perhaps unavoidably too preponderating to give free course to the practice of art. We shall venture to say, however, that the crudeness which attends the amateur need not make his suggestions contraband now any more than formerly; and—in recovering past advantages—does it not enter into the question, what auxiliary service he can be useful for? Can this suggestive element, if we may call it so, any way re-enter, and the amateur again take his part?—or, in other words, can we have a benefit by adopting some plan for taking advantage of the drawings of non-professional persons, when anything new and valuable occurs to them? If institutions for exhibiting and rewarding designs were candidly open to amateurs in competition with others—whilst every advantage would still remain with the educated architect, exceptionally an amateur might be brought forward, and, not

"born to blush unseen,"

quit his false position and join the profession. Taste has its occasional inspirations in the rough, and sometimes of the richest quality, possibly, without the pale of professional cultivation. Provided amateurs could—not by botching on their own account, but in some legitimate way—be made useful, it would moreover tend as much as anything to that general diffusion of taste, which is the only atmosphere in which the profession can vitally prosper. As a polite

accomplishment, architecture to some extent (we refer to artistic design only) admits of private pursuit like other fine arts; and it is important to remark, that the public, since they have the patronage, should be adequately educated that they may better exercise it. The mediæval system, like the ocean, received the stream from every channel; and if architecture for its own sake is to be promoted,—if a general taste is to be fully cultivated, and the attainments in this age rival the past,—whilst the responsibilities rest with the profession, the practical study of the art, it would seem, should be open to all who are capable of it, and, in a subordinate form, non-professional help again become tributary.

Upon reviewing, however, the circumstances that favoured architecture in times gone by, it must be owned that the difficulties of competing with antiquity are great. The advantages grasped by the art were more than peculiar,—human faculty was then in a manner sold to it; in the *Dark Ages* we see genius arbitrarily extinguished save in this one phase; and the whole light of the intellectual firmament at that time may be regarded as absorbed from others to be concentrated on this subject. We can point to a hundred years, in which about a hundred abbey and cathedral churches of first class character were erected in this country, when it possessed but a tithe of the present population and means. Now, the modest demand for only one such cathedral to recommence with may be too much to be realized; and, if so, puny in comparison is the revival of Gothic architecture. Without going to mediæval extremes, to impart but the necessary feeling is no small matter; for, not the despotic potentate and feudal lords, nor a paramount hierarchy, but a whole people have to be moved to do themselves credit. Yet, notwithstanding, the present age having the ability demanded, with far greater wealth, greater facilities for travelling, and various better helps for acquiring intelligence and proficiency, we ought not to succumb to the past. And if taste received only the utmost rational fostering and encouragement, it is not presumptuous to say that, instead of being behind, we might hope to distance our forefathers in the race of architectural development.

At the close of this paper:

Sir Henry Dryden, Bart. was invited by the President to address the meeting, which he proceeded to do, descanting upon topics recently brought by him before the notice of the Society in connection with the South Kensington Museum: "the framework of roofs, the construction of pews, &c., &c.," his remarks being illustrated by a series of diagrams drawn by himself. He, however, principally directed his remarks against so-called Church "Restoration" which he said so frequently meant Church "Destruction," and he earnestly protested against the practice too com-

mon among professional architects, of removing all vestiges of ancient work in churches and substituting their own work in its place. He contended that the churches were national monuments, and that people had no more right to destroy them than the officers of the British Museum had to burn the ancient documents belonging to the nation. They and the churches were for the public well-being, and should be preserved in their integrity. The churches especially; for they, more than the manuscripts, could at all times be read by any one going along the road. Castles, houses, and churches, formed a history in themselves if left as they originally stood. The foreigner was attracted by the churches. He contended that no one had any right to destroy the churches any more than a gentleman had a right to melt down his family plate. He maintained that they had no moral right to mutilate, mess, or to "restore" their old churches. What they called restoring when they came to deal with an old church he called unredeemable destruction. If they would give twenty millions of pounds they could not put in the east end of a church as it originally stood, after doing what they called restoring. That part was lost—lost for ever; a part of the history of the church was gone, and could not be recovered. They destroyed so much of the ancient history of the place when they removed one and added another piece of architecture.

The Rev. Edward Trollope, F.S.A., of Leasingham, was then invited to give the meeting his views respecting the tumulus at Kibworth, which the Local Committee had taken measures to open on the occasion of the Society's visit. He described it as a "ring barrow," and probably as that of a Roman military officer or agricultural colonist. Mr. Trollope minutely explained the mode of disposing of the bodies of the dead by burning, in Roman times, and stated that portions of pottery were thrown upon the funeral pile. As far as the excavations at Kibworth had gone, it was quite clear it was a Roman tumulus from the discovery in the earth of pieces of pottery (which he exhibited) called "Samian" ware, and of other fragments, which he also exhibited to the audience. A bone bodkin had also been found, and traces of burnt material, and of a paved flooring. These details were listened to with the closest attention.*

* The following bit of folk-lore appeared in a local newspaper shortly after the visit of the Society to Kibworth:—

THE LEGEND OF THE TUMULUS AT KIBWORTH.

Our correspondent at Kibworth has supplied us with the following legend, which is current in the locality:—"The field in which the mound is situate, is called the 'Hall Field,' and before the present owner held it—was in the possession of the Rev. Thomas Thomas, D.D. The owner then let a farm, including this field, to a farmer named William Gilbert, who appears to have been somewhat of a favourite with his landlord, and also on the most familiar terms with him. This mound for many years was known as Gilbert's 'Munt,' which is the corruption, no doubt, of

On the motion of Mr. James Thompson, seconded by Mr. S. Sharpe, votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector, to Sir H. Dryden, to Mr. Levien, and to Mr. V. Wing for their papers. Mr. Thompson confirmed the views of Mr. Trollope respecting the Roman origin of the tumulus; the site of which he said, near the old Roman-road formerly called by the Rev. Mr. Leman the "Via Devana," which crossed the county from south-east to north-west, with the size, indicated the mound to be that raised over some Roman of military rank.

Thanks were also given to the contributors to the Museum and to the President, and the company then separated.

THE EXCURSION.

After a public breakfast on the following morning, Wednesday, the 5th August—a large party left the Inn at Kibworth for the Annual Excursion, arranged according to a programme supplied, as usual, to all the members of the Society.

It was a cause of much disappointment and regret to all present, that the serious illness of the Rev. Canon James, who had under-

'mount.' It was also affirmed that a King Kibbeus was buried here, and that this king was either brought from Wales, or came from that country; but of his whereabouts, at the time of his reign, no one ever appeared to know anything. We give this as an old tale which used to be very prevalent, and always used to be repeated with great evidence of belief. It is said that the former owner, Dr. Thomas, was a native of Wales. The present owner (John Phillipps, Esq.) is also a native of the principality. We said Dr. Thomas was on the most friendly and familiar terms with his tenant, Gilbert. At that time, the legend of King Kibbeus being buried beneath the mount was very strongly believed, and Dr. Thomas caused one of the sons of the farmer to be named Kibbeus; the Doctor promising the child that this field should become his property, and that when he arrived at the age of twenty-one, this mound should be opened, to see what it contained. We may say, unfortunately for the boy, his proposed benefactor did not live to carry out his intention. The will was made, and the close was devised to Kibbeus; but through some neglect or other, the will was not signed; so Kibbeus did not obtain the field, nor was the mound then opened, as promised. This said Kibbeus Gilbert (who is about fifty years of age) is still living, and carrying on a respectable business at Atherstone, Warwickshire. The notion of some one being buried under the mount still clung to the inhabitants, and about twenty-seven years ago, a number of gentlemen obtained permission of the owner to be allowed to open it. An entrance was made from the western side to the centre, and some articles were found, which were sent to the late Proctor's Office, at Leicester. Since that date, but little has been said of King Kibbeus; but the visit of the Archæological Society to Kibworth, and the reopening of the mount caused much speculation. The mound has again been excavated, and it was cut through from north to south. The depth of the cutting was in the centre eight to nine feet. About five deep was found a layer of black soil, and what sometimes appeared ashes and pieces of burnt wood. In this layer were found bones, teeth, and one or two pieces of Roman pottery. On a level with the same layer a pavement of large stones about four feet by two, was discovered. A bone bodkin was also found, and an iron candlestick. At the depth of from eight to nine feet there was a regular layer of black soil; looking as if that was the old natural ground, and the above the made-up ground."

taken to act as Architectural guide, prevented his being present. He had, however, with his accustomed thoughtfulness supplied the Secretary with notes upon most of the churches to be visited.* The Rev. Prebendary Trollope, F.S.A., the General Secretary of the Associated Societies, promptly undertook at the last moment to supply, so far as was necessary, the void occasioned by the absence of Mr. James.

The carriages first stopped at

THORPE LANGTON.

On arriving at the church at this place, Mr. Trollope remarked that he was sorry to say that he had to announce the absence of Canon James, the state of whose health prevented him attending and making such observations as he had intended that day. He had been requested to fill his place, and would endeavour to do so as well as he was able. Mr. Trollope then briefly described the church, pointing out its architectural peculiarities. Without following the order of his description, it may be remarked that the church, dedicated to St. Leonard, has a broach spire, nave with aisles, and chancel. The tower of the early English style with pinnacles at the corners, and a low broach spire, below which is a corbel-table. A window of the same period (thirteenth century) remains at the west end of the south aisle, and the rest of the church appears to have been rebuilt in the following century, and exhibits good specimens of the decorated work of the time, especially in the tracery of some of the windows. In the capitals of two piers on the north side the ball-flower ornament is introduced with good effect. In the fifteenth century the church again underwent alterations. Clerestory windows were added, the chancel walls were raised, the chancel arch destroyed, and a nearly flat roof carried along the whole length of the edifice. A new font of perpendicular design was introduced, the ornamentation of the stem of which is particularly worthy of observation. On the south side of the chancel is a stone seat below a window for the officiating clergy, and a piscina. On the north side is a range of the pre-reformation seats. The altar is a table of the middle of the seventeenth century. Between the chancel and nave the lower part of a perpendicular rood skreen remains, and steps to the rood loft led out of the corner of the south aisle. A portion of the pulpit is of the same character. Some of the bench ends are remarkable as being probably of the time of James the First, as appears by arches carved upon them and the pyramidical finials of some, while others are square. There are fragments of stained glass of the fourteenth century in several of the windows, and some ornamented quarries.

* These notes were, it is believed, almost the last work of the kind undertaken by Mr. James, and as such will be much valued by the members of this Society.

The Rev. Canon JAMES thus describes this church in some notes which he had prepared:

Thorpe Langton is a chapelry of Church Langton. The church, consisting of a nave of three bays, with north and south aisles and chancel, is dedicated to St. Leonard. I fear the most interesting of the churches to be visited to-day comes first on the list. The whole church, which is of one date, is an excellent example of the Early Geometrical Decorated of the fourteenth century. The tower might, at first sight, appear somewhat earlier, but probably the whole church was built at the same time. The proportions and tracery of the windows are remarkably good. In the head of several of the windows are fragments of painted glass coeval with the windows, and with which they were originally glazed. Every fragment of this should be most religiously preserved, and each bit restored to its proper place. The great defect of the interior is the want of a chancel arch. This, no doubt, originally existed, but in the fifteenth century, when the high pitched roofs of the earlier style (the old story!) had become decayed, the repairers probably found the gable over the chancel arch inconveniently in their way, and wishing to make a "neat job" of it, and carry the clerestory and roof right through at the same level, they disannulled the gable and arch altogether, and left no other separation between nave and chancel than the rood skreen, the base of which still exists, and which is of this later date. The staircase to the rood loft also yet remains, entered from the south aisle. The pitch of the old roof before the clerestory was added may yet be seen against the east wall of the tower. Though, in restoring this church, I would not reinsert a chancel arch, yet I could mark the distinction of the chancel by bringing down one of the principals of the roof in this spot, so as to form a wooden arch of a marked character. Other noticeable features in this church are, the font, placed in its present position probably at the time of the great repairs in the fifteenth century, of which date it is, and the very beautiful and not common arrangement of the steps in the form of a cross; the pulpit, which is of the same date; and a very early and simple panneled bench end, near the north entrance. There are several open seats on the south of Jacobean pattern. I sincerely hope that the restoration of this church may be a conservative one; that the font, pulpit, and base of rood skreen may be preserved; the stalls in the chancel repaired, and made the model for the chancel fittings; and that the bench back referred to may be retained, and the new seats made to follow that pattern. The small number to be provided for will not necessitate crowding the church with seats, and ample passages may be left; the tower arch will of course be opened, the modern west doorway blocked up, and new tracery inserted in the east window; but I hope the rest may be as little tampered with as possible, and the windows left as

they are, even if some of the tracery has got a little askew. Above all, I hope that there will be no scraping and pointing of the outside. The walls are now rich with the lichens of five centuries, and no possible amount of restoration could compensate for the beauty which this church would lose by the removal of this delicate time-painting. If the joints are to be raked out and fresh pointed after the most approved modern fashion, the great external interest of this church will be gone. If any one wishes to compare an ancient with a modern wall, please to keep this church in mind when you look at the smart black mortared pointing in the new aisle of Tugby chancel. If the societies feel with me on this point, I trust they will express a strong opinion thereon. Fortunately, the gentleman into whose hands this church is likely to be committed is an antiquarian, as well as an architect.

The party then proceeded to

CHURCH LANGTON.

The Tower is of the Perpendicular style, and is a fine example, though devoid of ornament. The west end of the south aisle has a very Early Decorated window, and the walls of both aisles are of the same style, but later, probably 1320-50. The tracery of the east window is reticulated. Much of the church was rebuilt in the fifteenth century, to which period the very beautiful roof belongs, ornamented with elaborate bosses, and embattled work on the tie beams. The lion of St. Mark is also among its decorations. A doorway on the north side of the chancel led into a small external chapel, now destroyed, the piscina of which remains. West of this are the stairs to the rood loft. In the south wall are three sedilia and a piscina. The locker in the north wall has a door, and contains candle-ends, &c. The north aisle has a small square headed piscina, and there is a bracket on each side of its east window, one of them large and much ornamented, and supported by two heads. Upon these no doubt images once stood. The south aisle had also an altar at the east end, above which, below the window, is a space recessed for a carved altar-piece or "table" as then called. Each of the aisles has a recess for a monumental effigy of the Decorated period with rich canopy. That on the south side was a second time made use of for Sir Richard Roberts in 1644. Probably they were originally designed for members of the Langton family, of whom Walter de Langton died Bishop of Lichfield in 1321. The effigy shown as of him in his Cathedral Church, and engraved in Nichols' Leicestershire, must, however, be of earlier date. The Font is dated 1662, and has a curious high cover, seemingly of somewhat older workmanship, ornamented with semicircular arches. Near it is fixed an old alms box, of probably the same date, with two locks to secure donations, but now it is a depository for torn books and rags. The pulpit, its steps and

sounding-board, are of Jacobean character. There is also a remarkable square pew of this style, with finials at the corners. Some older bench ends have the linen pattern. This church (as also Thorpe Langton,) is about to be "restored," and it is much to be hoped that when undergoing that operation these remains of antiquity may not be destroyed.

Of this church Canon JAMES says:

Church Langton is the mother church of Thorpe Langton and Tur Langton, and contains within itself East and West Langton. From this place sprung Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, in 1295. He was a great favourite of Edward I., and benefactor to his cathedral. He died in 1321, and his monument is still seen in Lichfield Cathedral. We might possibly connect him with this church, and that of Thorpe Langton; but if the inscription described by Burton, is correct, we may assume Thomas de Langton as the founder at least of the mother church. Under the monumental arch of the north aisle of this church was originally a monument with the inscription—

"Ora pro anima Thomas de Langton."

The existence of another arch, identical in character, in the south aisle, may possibly point to a joint founder. In this arch is now interpolated, after the fashion of the day, an effigy, with arms and inscription, notifying that Sir Richd. Roberts, Knight, aged 80, is buried here, with the date 1644. This is at least 300 years later than the arch which contains it. The nave, it will be seen, consists of four bays, the outer walls being all of the fourteenth century; but in the fifteenth century, the whole of the piers and arches have been swept away, and the present arcade, clerestory, and roofs inserted. At the same time, the eastern windows of the aisle have replaced Decorated windows of a far better character than the present debased specimens. The chancel was probably of much of the same date, though nothing of the fourteenth century now remains, but the three sedilia and piscina, and the door, originally opening into the vestry. Bits of the original fourteenth century glass remain here, as in Thorpe Langton, and deserve the greatest care. Some of the old seats remain of a late type. The font is a plain specimen of the fifteenth century, with Jacobean cover. There is also an old alms box, of Jacobean date, which should not be thrown away at the restoration. The rood loft staircase may be seen on the outside. On the exterior north wall of the chancel are the vestiges of a former vestry, with the remains of a beautiful fourteenth century piscina, which Nichols states "is believed to be Saxon." The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and the tower, which is an exceedingly fine specimen of its date, contains eight bells, three of which were added by Mr. Hanbury, the founder, of whom we must presently speak. In this neighbourhood, where fine towers are so

rare, that of Church Langton deserves especial attention, not only from its size, its simplicity, its massiveness, and fine masonry, but from the peculiar form of its buttresses, clasping as they do the angles, with shallow projections, more like those of Norman date than of the fifteenth century, as these are. Mr. Poole first called attention to this local characteristic, which may also be seen in the towers of Welford, Theddingworth, Braybrooke, and many other churches of the neighbourhood."

The Mausoleum of the Hanbury Family—an octagonal building in the churchyard—was inspected. It contained five coffins, among which was pointed out that of the "Founder" of the Hanbury Charities, and the projector of a scheme of great magnitude for church extension in his parish.

NOSELY

Was the next place visited. Upon arriving at the church, Mr. North (Hon. Sec.), read the following short paper prepared by Canon James: "We read that in 1275 Sir Anketil de Martival founded a chantry chapel in his Manor House at Nosely. It was afterwards enlarged by his son Roger, for a collegiate church. He (Roger) died, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1326, having previously bestowed many gifts upon the wardens and priests of his college at Nosely. There can be little doubt that the existing building is the collegiate chapel of Roger de Martival, not only from the style of architecture agreeing with his date, but from the distinctly collegiate form of the building. Nichols assigns a much more modern origin, misled probably by the character given to the windows on the south side by the absence of mullions (which have of course been destroyed). It is one of the advantages which the more accurate study of ecclesiastical architecture has brought about, that we are enabled unhesitatingly to connect the present building with the original foundation, and thus give it the additional interest which this fact supplies. The whole of the original building remains, with the exception of the vestry, and probably a priest's chamber over, which connected the chancel with the detached tower. The chapel was originally nearly equally divided by a skreen, into nave and choir, each having four two-light windows on either side (except where the vestry interfered). The western bay was probably parclosed off as an anti-chapel, having north and south doors, and a larger western one for grand processional occasions. The east and west windows are poor Perpendicular insertions of the fifteenth century. On the jamb of the fifth window from the west, on the north side may be seen the mark into which the skreen, which separated the nave from the chancel, was formerly fitted. The present proprietor remembers a skreen existing here some forty years ago, but that is described by Nichols as 'modern.' The base of the old skreen may, I believe, be dis-

covered worked up in the present pews. The stalls, which are of very fine execution for their late date, are obviously not in their original position; they must have originally stood eastward of the chancel skreen, within the choir. Against the west side of the skreen probably existed two altars, one on each side of entrance. This will account for the position of the two piscinas, which may still be seen in the middle of the church with their wooden credence shelves remaining entire. The three sedilia and double piscina in the choir are of the date of the original building, as is also a very beautiful font at the west end, which we should not have expected to find in a collegiate chapel, unless it had been attached (as it was) to the Manor House; and it is singular that the privilege of baptism was especially secured to this chapel by the original agreement, and confirmed by the Bishop, in 1405. The right of bells, the celebration of matrimony, and the churching of women attached to the Manor, were also allowed by the same document. There is a holy water stoup close to the south door. In the east window are some very valuable remains of the original fourteenth century glass, in delightful contrast to some of the nineteenth century in the head of the window. Two wooden altar candlesticks of carved renaissance work and gilt, should be noticed, as showing how soon the family of the great Puritan, Sir Arthur, returned back to its loyalty to Church and State. It would be impossible thoroughly to describe, but equally impossible altogether to pass over, the remarkable and uninterrupted series of family monuments which have escaped alike spoilation and restoration. The earliest among the Alabaster slabs is the commencement of the series—that of Thomas Hazlerig, who married Elizabeth Martival (through whom the property came to the present family) being the oldest. The inscription is worth noticing from the addition of the words "Litera Dominicalis D." An uncommon addition to a date. A bell lies on the outside, "Thomas Haslerig S. Squier made me 1590." The clapper is gone, but it would be well to preserve it by bringing it within the chapel."

Mr. Trollope directed the attention of the visitors to the very remarkable series of incised monumental slabs in the pavement to members of the Hazlerigg family. They are in an unusually perfect state of preservation. The earliest date is 1467. Two altar-tombs are also much to be noticed; one to Sir Thomas Hazlerigg, his wife, and children, whose dresses are given with great accuracy of detail, and it is recorded that their mother made the material of them; the other to the Sir Arthur Hazlerigg of the time of the Great Rebellion, his two wives, and their children, several of whom are represented with flowers and skulls in their hands, significant of their early death.

The visitors then proceeded to Nosely Hall, where they were received by Sir Arthur and Lady Hazlerigg. Among the many

paintings of value and interest exhibited may be noted one of the Protector Oliver Cromwell, remarkable for less severity and determination of aspect than usually given him. It was painted by Walker for Sir A. Hazlerigg, of whom there is a portrait in black armour, with long hair flowing on each side a pleasing and intelligent face. It has the date 1640. Several original letters of Cromwell to Sir A. Hazlerigg of the Commonwealth, were read by the Dean of Waterford and by Mr. North. One was written the day before the battle of Dunbar, expressing the great danger he conceived his army to be placed in; another the day following the battle. These letters had passed from the Hazlerigg family, and a few years ago were on the point of being thrown into the fire, when it occurred to the owner that they might still be valued by the present baronet, and were therefore sent to him.*

"To the Honble. S^{r}. Ar. Heselridge at Newcastle or elsewhere.
"These hast hast.

"Deere S^{r}.

"Wee are upon an engagement very difficult, the enimie hath blocked up our way att the passe at Copperspith,† thorough wch wee canott gett wthout almost a miracle, Hee lyeth soe upon the Hills that wee knowe not how to come that way without great difficultye, and our lyinge heere dayly consumeth our men, whoe fall sicke beyond imagination. I perceave your forces are not in a capacitye for present releife, wherefore (whatever become of us) itt will be well for you to gett what forces you can together, and the South to helpe what they can, the businesse neerely concerneth all good people. If your forces had been in a readinesse to have fallen upon the back of Copperspith itt might have occasioned supplies to have come to us, but the only wise God knowes what is best, all shall worke for good, our Spirits are comfortable (praised bee the Lord) though our present condition bee as itt is, and indeed wee have much hope in the Lord, of whose mercy we have had a large experience. Indeed doe you gett together what forces you can against them. Send to friends in the South to help with more. Lett H. Vane know what I write. I would not make itt publick least danger should acrue thereby. You know what use to make hereof. Lett me heere from you.

"Sept. 2^{d}. "I rest
"1650. "Your servant,
"O. Cromwell.

"Its difficult for mee to send to you, lett me heere from (you) after."

*** "This letter is indorsed 'Genl. Cromwell's tre of the Army's condition neer Copperspith—Scotland, 1650—2^{d} Sept,' which was the day before the memorable Battle of Dunbarr in Scotland, where Genl. Cromwell routed all the Scotch forces totally. And instead of returning to England he turned to Edinburrough and conquered Scotland. This letter is every word writ with his owne hand, the Superscription allso."

* By the courtesy of Sir A. G. Hazlerigg, we are enabled to give copies of two of these letters, which he has had transcribed for the use of the Society.

† Cockburnspath.

" For the Honble. S^r^. Arthur Heselridge, Govern^r^ of Newcastle.
" These hast hast.

" S^r^

" I cannot but hasten you in sending up what forces possibly you can, this inclosed was intended to you on Saturday, but could not come. We are not able to carry on our businesse as we would untill we have wherewith to keepe Edinburgh and Leith untill we attempt and are acting forwards. We have not in these parts above 2 months to keep the field, therefore expedite what you can, and I desire you to send us free masons, you know not the importance of Leith. I hope your Northerne guests are come to you by this time, I pray you lett humanitie be exercised towards them, I am persuaded it will be comely. Lett the officers be kept at Newcastle, some sent to Lynn, some to Chester, I have no more but rest,

" Your affectionate Servt.,
" O. Cromwell."

" Edinburgh,
" September 9th, 1650.

" I desire as the forces come up, I may heare from time to time what they are, how their marches are laid and when I may expect them.
" My service to the Deare Ladye."

Most of the visitors being assembled in the Entrance Hall, the Rev. E. Tower, of Earls' Shilton, briefly expressed the thanks of the company to Sir Arthur and Lady Hazlerigg for the kindness they had manifested in laying before the Society the interesting relics of their household, and expressed the pleasure all felt in finding one of the old families of England in its ancient seat, and his hope that it might long continue to remain there.

Sir Arthur Hazlerigg acknowledged the compliment, on his own and Lady Hazlerigg's behalf, and added that if the Society had derived any gratification from the visit, it had afforded him great pleasure.

The company then left the hall to take their places in the carriages, and were soon bowling away to

TUGBY CHURCH.

The Tower is Norman, of four receding stages, the upper one having a corbel-table. The lowest string-course has a carved decoration. One of the windows is divided by a shaft with the chevron ornament. The west doorway has by some been thought to be Saxon; it is of "long and short work:" the head of it is an obtusely-pointed arch. Mr. Trollope was of opinion that it was of early Norman date. Over it is a small semicircular headed recess. The South doorway in the porch is very fine, semicircular with bold roll moulding. A few Early English remains are in other parts of the church, but most of it was rebuilt in 1858. The

stained glass windows, one of which is heraldic, are the work of Messrs. Ward and Nixon, superintended by Mr. Winston, whose writings upon ancient glass are well-known. Later in the day an ancient paten, probably of the fourteenth century, used in Tugby church was exhibited: in the centre of it is engraved the "Veronica."

Canon JAMES remarks upon the edifice:—There is little archæological interest about this church with the exception of the very ancient tower, which is well worth the accurate study of the church antiquarians. The west door seems to have indications of "long and short" work, which is generally considered to mark out Saxon execution. The primitive formation of the arch points to the same date, and the small single-light window on the south with its flat dripstone is identical with the work esteemed Saxon at Barnack and elsewhere. The two-light window on the south is somewhat later, and may be considered transition between Saxon and Norman. But the west door and lower window may fairly be assigned to the Saxon period, giving an especial interest to this church. I know of no equally early remains in the neighbourhood. The church is dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, which must have therefore been its second dedication.

The carriages were next driven to

KEYTHORPE HALL.

Here the Society received a most kind and hospitable reception from Lord and Lady Berners. His Lordship exhibited several objects of interest and antiquity; a fine old key, some circular pieces and dice of bone, and comb, found with a skeleton near the hall; a carved chessman from Ashmethorpe, in Norfolk; also a wooden cup with lid of the time of Charles II., about ten inches in height, found in a cottage at Tugby by Mr. Winslow, carved with birds, animals, &c., and the following inscriptions:

"The Lord make joyful all his Saints that on earth doth dwell,
And prosper all such as dothe in true goodness excell;
Drink well of that which will do you most good,
  With honest hearts delight God's word to hear;
Suffer with him while here ye do remaine,
  Who hath redeemed you with a price so deare;
In endless glory such shall with him reigne,
So runne that sure ye may obtayne;
If you have faith working by sincere love,
Your names are written in heaven above,
Then in all good works ye will faithful prove."

This cup is of a long cocoa-nut shape. Lord Berners also exhibited a matchlock, elaborately inlaid with gold, taken from the last great Mogul, the Emperor of Indostan, Mahomed Shah, on the 21st September, 1857, on which day he surrendered to Captain Hodson, commanding a corps of irregular horse, and

was delivered by that officer to Major General Archdale Wilson, who commanded the force which assaulted and captured the city of Delhi. Sir Archdale Wilson presented it to Lord Berners the head of his family, on his return from India in May, 1858, as a testimony of his esteem and affection, with the wish that it may be preserved as a heirloom.

The members of the Society then sat down to a sumptuous luncheon in the dining room, after which his Lordship proposed the health of the Queen, the prosperity of the Society, and the strangers who were present.

Canon Trollope replied in a lengthy speech, and referred to his Lordship's kindness, not only that day, but to his generosity and the assistance which he has generally rendered in church restoration. His beneficence was known to all of them. He indulged in the highest eulogiums as to the entertainment, and gave in a complimentary manner, the health of Lord and Lady Berners.

Lord Berners replied, his speech being commendatory of the party, and expressive of his happiness in entertaining the company before him. His Lordship was repeatedly cheered, and concluded by proposing the health of Archdeacon Moore, who had made suggestions to him with regard to the work of church restoration in which he had taken part.

Archdeacon Moore replied; and Mr. Levien's name being mentioned in connection with the British Museum, that gentleman likewise responded.

The dining room being unable to accommodate all the visitors, a lunch was laid out in the library, presided over by Mr. Chester. The Rev. Mr. Winslow proposed the healths of Lord and Lady Berners, and Mr. Chester thanked the company on behalf of his uncle and aunt. The Rev. Mr. Rollestone proposed success to the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Goddard, of Leicester. Mr. Goddard in responding, said he felt honoured in having his name associated with a Society whose principal object was to restore their ancient churches. The sacred edifices he had restored, some of which they would visit, he hoped had given satisfaction. Mr. Neale, Skeffington, returned thanks on behalf of the Architectural and Archæological Society.

The next place visited was

EAST NORTON.

The church there, dedicated to All Saints, had been recently restored under the direction of Mr. Goddard. The south wall is ancient, and contains a lancet window. The south doorway is remarkable, the interior face of it is a square-headed trefoil, and

the outer an ogee arch with square dripstone. It is probably of late date. The ancient font remains; the four legs upon which it stands indicate a Norman or Early English date; probably the basin was originally square, but cut into an octagon in the fourteenth century, when fenestrated decorations were sunk in the sides. In the east window an old bit of stained glass remains, representing a chalice with the host in it. The old prejudice in favour of pews with doors prevailed when the church was reseated. The old carved seats mentioned by Nichols, of course have not been preserved. Plate glass is used in some of the windows. Mr. Trollope defended the introduction of modern inventions into our churches, which in many cases is right, but as plate glass is rather for the purpose of obtaining *a good look-out*, the advantage of its introduction into churches may be questioned.

ALLEXTON.

Leaving East Norton the cavalcade of carriages proceeded by Allexton Hall, late the residence of Lord Berners (then the Hon. Mr. Wilson), and of his ancestors, by whom it was probably built in the seventeenth century, to Allexton. A merry peal upon the five bells in the steeple welcomed the Society. This church had been lately restored by Mr. Millican under the superintendence of Lord Berners. The north wall of the nave was found to contain two very beautiful Norman arches with chevron and lozenge ornaments, and the south wall two pointed arches. The aisles into which they opened had long been destroyed, but are now rebuilt. The chancel is of greater length than the present nave, but this was evidently once longer, and the tower has been built within it in the Perpendicular period. The chancel arch has Norman capitals. A low side window in the north wall remains; another on the south was not restored. Mr. Trollope spoke at length upon the use of these low side windows, and inclined to the belief that they were used for administering the holy sacrament and other rites of the church to lepers who were not admitted among the congregation. The prevalence of leprosy in former times he attributed to the quantity of salted food eaten. As these windows are by far the most frequently found in churches of the thirteenth century, it would be of use to investigate whether at that time the leprosy much prevailed, and afterwards decreased. The old piscina remains, and has a foliated basin for the water. A portion of the chancel is still Early English, and it has a Decorated and a Perpendicular window. The porch has a record of its erection in 1594. In a window in the north aisle are collected some fragments of stained glass: part of a figure with a rod and a bell, may indicate a representation of St. Anthony. After the Dean of Waterford had addressed the visitors, and described the progress

of the restoration of the church, the carriages were again filled and returned to Kibworth and elsewhere, and the Congress terminated.

The following amusing lines appeared in a local newspaper, October 26, 1861, with reference to Mr. Bloxam's remarks upon the so-called Wycliffe Relics (vide pp. 77 to 80).

"The Wickliffe lots put up by Bloxam;
First one then t'other, down he knocks 'em;
Till some among the antiquaries,
Who see how far the sport he carries,
Alarm'd, are anxious to be knowing
If John himself will next be 'going?'"

28*th September*, 1863.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Resolved that the General Summer Meeting in 1864 be held at Hinckley. A statement respecting the condition of the Jewry Wall, Leicester, having been read by Mr. James Thompson, a Sub-Committee was appointed to carry out his suggestions.*

* This Sub-Committee, shortly after its appointment, issued the following statement:

"The Jewry Wall, Leicester.

"A recent examination of this interesting Relic of Antiquity by an Architect of great experience, has proved that it is in an extremely dilapidated and unsafe condition. Owing to the removal of a large portion of the Wall, on a line with the present road passing by it, it is found that there is an overwhelming mass of masonry in the upper part which has no adequate support, and which, at any time, may fall, and the whole be reduced to a mass of ruins.

"Excavations made by the Council of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, about a year ago, instituted in order to ascertain whether there were traces of a continuation of the piers of the wall in the direction of the adjoining church, revealed the extent and nature of the portion of the structure now buried, and of the foundation. In this way, it is considered by local antiquaries, much information was gained respecting the original purpose of the wall, and the proportions of its *façade* were exhibited in all their completeness.

"Under these circumstances, the Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society has come to the conclusion that it is desirable to take measures to prevent the fabric from falling, permanently to remove the earth in front of it down to the original level of the Roman way, and to protect it from injury by raising before it a low wall, surmounted with iron palisades, through which the entire front will be seen, from the uncovered bases of the piers to the tops of the arches.

"These proceedings, it is estimated, will involve an outlay of at least fifty pounds. The Society undertakes to bear a share, believing that in attempting to preserve a relic which is *unique* in character, and of unusual interest, all friends to archæology will cheerfully assist.

"The consent of the Vicar of St. Nicholas' parish and that of the Highway and

The following Gentlemen were elected Members of the Society: The Right Hon. the Earl of Lanesborough; the Right Rev. Bishop Spencer; The Hon. and Rev. A. G. Campbell, Knipton Rectory; Edward Basil Farnham, Esq., Quorndon House, Loughborough; Major Edward Dyson, Rothley Temple; Captain Lowndes, High Croft, Husbands Bosworth; the Rev. Cave Humfrey, R.D., Laughton; the Rev. R. E. Haymes, Stanwick, Higham Ferrars; the Rev. Gerard Neville, Tilton Rectory; the Rev. Robert Dalby, R.D., Belton; the Rev. R. Fawssett, Smeeton Westerby; the Rev. Edgar Sherlock, Peckleton; the Rev. W. H. Cleaver, Kibworth; the Rev. L. Wood, Claybrooke; Arthur Haymes, Esq., Great Glen; Ambrose Lisle March Phillipps de Lisle, Esq., Gracedieu Manor; Edward Warner, Esq., Quorndon Hall; Thomas Pares, Esq., Hopwell Hall; Alfred Whitby, Esq., Glenfield Frith; Wm. Johnson, Esq., Peatling Parva; Mr. Wm. Price, Church Langton; Mr. Superintendent Deakins, Lutterworth; the Rev. T. H. Wright, Leicester.

The following articles, &c., were exhibited:—

By the Rev. J. H. Hill.—A shilling of Queen Elizabeth, recently found at Cranoe, dated 1573.

By Thomas T. Paget, Esq.—A groat of Edward III., lately found in Calphia Wood, Huntingdonshire. Obverse: EDWARD. D.G. REX ANGL Z. FRANC. D. HYB. round a crowned head of that monarch with full face, and hair much extended on each side of the face, within a tressure of nine arches. Reverse: outer circle, POSVI. DEVM. ADIVTOREM MEUM; inner circle, CIVITAS LONDON, with a cross extending through the circles to the rim of the coin; pellets within the inner circle.

By Mr. North (by permission of T. T. Paget, Esq.), some relics from Little Oxendon, which he explained in the following memoir:

"A few antiquities connected with the Battle of Naseby having been placed in my hands by Mr. T. T. Paget, upon whose estate they were lately found, I have pleasure in exhibiting them to this Society, inasmuch as the interest attaching to them as relics of that memorable engagement is considerably enhanced by the circumstances under which they were discovered. If the traveller, going along the highway from Market Harborough to Northampton, will turn into the fields on the right hand, when he has walked about a mile and a half from the former town, and proceed a few hundred yards in a westerly direction, he will find himself in a

Sewerage Committee of the Town Council of Leicester, has been obtained by the Society for these works.

A Sub-Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, consisting of Mr. G. H. Nevinson, Mr. Thomas Nevinson, (Probate Court, Wycliffe Street,) Mr. James Thompson, *(Chronicle Office,)* Mr. Henry Goddard, (Market Street,) and the Honorary Secretaries of the Society, Mr. G. C. Bellairs, Friar Lane, and Mr. Thomas North, Southfields, Leicester, has been formed for carrying out the scheme, and by whom contributions towards the cost will be gladly received.

large field, shewing every indication of being the site of former extensive roads and buildings. I visited the place a short time since, and found the indications I mention strongly marked; a main road, a shorter road or street running parallel with it, and the marks of the foundations of many houses on either side of these being distinctly visible. It was here that the village of Little Oxendon stood prior to the Battle of Naseby. Very little is known, I believe, of the history of the place, and that little need not here be reproduced. Tradition says that when the victorious Parliamentary troops, routing the Royalists, pursued them towards Market Harborough, they came across the village of Little Oxendon, and finding the inhabitants favourable to the cause of their King, almost totally destroyed the place. There was, within the memory of men now living, a solitary house standing upon the site of the ancient village. That, however, has been taken down many years, and the materials removed for use elsewhere. It was in the spring of the present year that the gentleman now occupying the farm under Mr. Paget, in which the field is comprised, requiring stone for his roads, determined to avail himself of the buried remains of Little Oxendon. He accordingly dug in several places, and procured abundance of stone for his purpose. He found the road and street I have mentioned covered with loose stones, whilst on either side he occasionally found, apparently running in front of where some of the houses formerly stood, lengths of "pitched pavement," that is, stones placed in the ground close together, edgeways. He discovered the foundation of many houses, with much rubble scattered about; but, in addition to those, very little or no wrought or squared stones; which leads him to infer that the houses were chiefly built of mud, upon stone foundations. He also came across the remains of a building of a considerable size, which he assigns to a church or chapel; but there again, no stones beyond those of the foundation, carved or plain, were turned up, corroborative of his theory. Pieces of burnt or charred wood were found, pointing to the destruction of the village by fire. A well, cased with stone, belonging to one of the houses, was accidentally opened. This—with a praiseworthy desire to recover any relics that, in the confusion of time, might have found their way into it—was thoroughly cleaned out to the bottom, a depth of about fifteen feet; but without any result. It is now covered over with a slab, upon which the earth is again thrown. It was during the excavations just referred to, that the articles I now exhibit were found. They consist of a spur, a portion of a bit of a bridle, a pocket knife, two coins, and some tobacco-pipe heads—trifles in themselves, but not uninteresting as reminiscences of an engagement famous in English history, and of an obscure Northamptonshire village, which suffered so much from the horrors of that civil war. The spur, which is not quite complete, is of the

ordinary type, with a small rowel or wheel, evidently intended, from its being strong and devoid of decoration, for work and not for mere ornament. The portion of a bit of a bridle is only a fragment. The knife, though much corroded, is curious, the form of the blade being peculiar. The coins are, a shilling of Elizabeth (apparently one of the first or 'hammered shillings' of that reign), bearing, with the usual inscriptions, the date 156 . . , and a half-penny of William III., dropped, of course, at a subsequent period. The two tobacco-pipe heads are somewhat alike in form, though very different in size. The smaller one belongs to the class usually called 'Fairy pipes;' so called, I presume, from their small size. They both have a milled border round the mouth, but the spur of the small one is flat, enabling the smoker to place his pipe on the table in an upright position; and the bowl swells in the centre and assumes the barrel form, thus indicating an earlier make than the larger one, where the spur is pointed. They coincide in form with the pipes in use in the time of Charles I. As illustrative of these, I also exhibit two tobacco-pipe heads, lately found by a Member of this Society—Mr. Sarson—in excavating in his garden, near to the Church of St. Nicholas, Leicester. They, too, have the milled edge, and are very similar to the small one from Oxendon. It is possible that the one set were used by the Royalist soldiers, after the capture of Leicester, on the last day of May, 1645; and the other set by the equally exultant Parliamentary troopers, at the battle of Naseby, on the 14th of the following June." Mr. North further remarked, with reference to Little Oxendon, that there is only one house in the parish, that occupied by Mr. Kirkman, the gentleman referred to above, and who, as occupier of all the land in the lordship, is the only ratepayer, he consequently was his own surveyor and assessor, and maintained his own roads in repair. Under the new Highway Act he is his own Waywarden, and as such takes his seat at the Board. Little Oxendon pays poor rates to Little Bowden, but in every other way is a distinct and independent parish.

By The Rev. W. B. Moore, a Greek coin of one of the Ptolemies, and several small brass Roman coins, which we hope to describe on a future occasion.

By The Rev. J. H. Hill, two rubbings of monumental brasses to members of the Cholmondley family in Burton Coggles Church, Lincolnshire: inscriptions destroyed.

Drawing of details of windows, doors, &c., in the same church.

By John Phillips, Esq., of Kibworth, an unpublished Poem in manuscript, supposed to be in the handwriting, and to bear the signature of Queen Elizabeth, upon which Mr. James Thompson read the following remarks:

"The manuscript now exhibited to the Society is a poem written by Queen Elizabeth. It is a moral and sententious com-

position, in seventy-eight lines, of which every succeeding two lines rhyme together.

"The manuscript has been obligingly forwarded by John Phillips, Esq., of Kibworth, for your fuller inspection to-day; having been already shown at our Annual Meeting. Of its authenticity I think there can be little doubt. Mr. Levien of the British Museum, pronounces the writing to be Queen Elizabeth's. It is also remarkable that it closely resembles in character that of Lady Jane Grey, which I had recently the pleasure of examining in the Museum at Zurich, in her three letters to Cwinglius, the great Swiss reformer. Lady Jane's letters are higher and narrower than those of her kinswoman; but as in our own day there is a distinctive, angular style of female caligraphy, so it would seem in the early part of the sixteenth century there was in practice a style at once rounder, bolder, and more formal. Queen Elizabeth and Queen Jane illustrated the latter kind of handwriting.

"The way in which the paper came into Mr. Phillips's possession also, I think, proves its genuineness. It has long been a relic preserved by his maternal ancestors, the Howells. His uncle, a clergyman named Howell, was a collector of antiquities, and earlier maternal ancestors indulged the same tastes. Descended from Thomas Howell, who was a merchant trading with Spain in the reign of Henry VIII., and who gave a hall in London to the Company of Drapers, they had for a later ancestor James Howell, Esq., one of the clerks of James the First's Privy Council. Into the hands of this gentleman (who was also historiographer to Charles the Second) various State manuscripts seem to have fallen; and, among the rest, the manuscript from the pen of Queen Elizabeth, which he transmitted to his descendants, or rather the descendants of his brother, and hence they have found their way to Mr. Phillips."

THE POEM.

"All God's Commandments are divinely pure
By keeping them Men keepe their soules secure.
Brave virtues Emanations Charme the Eyes
Of all that are sincerely good and wise.
Count that day lost whose low descending sun,
Viewes from your hand noe noble action done.
Depressed virtue like the palm oprest,
Raises more high the heaven saluting crest.
Doe nothing rashly, rashnesse numerous wayes,
The rash Attempter to contempt betrayes.
For toyes and trifles we contend and fight,
And our concerns farr mor substantial slight.
Conscience abused in the midst of furies,
It will condemn more than ten thousand juries.
Commend not day till Night, nor Censure Man,
Till death with his dart done what he can.
Despise not learning's meanest introduction—
Imbrace her rules, and hate to hate instruction.
For public good with zeal your time expend,
Since Virtue's sonns make that their Aime and end.

Many their Livings by the pen procure,
And no Manns Living but for that were sure.
Mans Reason, will, and power then most transcend,
When most they Answer their Creations end.
Meete complements, with complements, and smiles,
with smiles; be not enslaved by others smiles.
Good works perform in equity excell,
The Noblest prize is gained by doeing well.
Onely to see proves of small consequence,
But to foresee shewes wisdom's excellence.
Others concerns who mindes not he shall finde,
More oppertunities his own to minde.
Hazard not precious times expense but make,
A quick dispatch in what you undertake.
Let moderation your Request commend,
by thus demanding you command your friend,
Come above Conscience who preferr would know,
when 'tis too late it is below, below.

"Religion is the Soule of Innocence,
Moving in an unspotted Conscience.
Remuneration like soft Aprill showers,
In virtues May produces gallant flowers.
Rare virtues emanations farr transcend the prize,
Of the west Indies Gold or Eastern spice.
Starrs, Sands, and Sinns, vast numbers are, yet are
But Cyphers, when God's mercies we compare.
When lands and friends are gone, and wealth take wing,
Then Learning's priz'd, then Learning's a great thing.
Where Reason, will, and power all comply
With Heavenly wisdom their's rare Harmony.
Worth too base mindes is Envy propagation,
But in Heroick soules gaines Emulation.
When men make presents to the best of Kings,
They wisely should present the best of things.
Vices, which seeme to lie within conceal'd
Are by our words and Actions soon Reveal'd.
Vallour for Honour, grace for glory calls,
Brave Heroes Fames survives their Funeralls.
Read Bookes, Men, manners Times, and you'l confesse
That the Worlds Supreme virtue is Successe.
Quit this worlds stage you must when your part's play'd
Get earnest, timely for a better laide,
Quote in the folio of your best Affections,
Him thats a faithful friend beyond objections.
Quilt Earths vast ball with Numbers, all imply,
But Cyphers to Immense Eternity.

"Patience disquiet calmes, charmes discontents,
And Arms Men's minds against the worst events.
In Dubious Matters pruden Councel chuse
This Solomon himselfe would not Refuse,
Not wealth, but wisdome doth adorn our State,
Virtue not Honour makes men fortunate.
Would you Buy Arts, and parts which Men most prize
Their price is Industry and exercise.
If Nature's gifts shine forth in every part,
Let grace and virtue crowne her Curious Art.
If her Choice favours Nature doth denie,
Let grace and virtue those defects supply.
"Da
"Elizabeth."

Mr. James Thompson read a description of an ancient Gothic house now standing near Ulverscroft Priory, on Chitterman Hill, as follows:—

Every hill in Charnwood Forest has a name suggestive of some association with the past, when the entire district was covered with oaks, and the home of the stag, the wolf, and other wild animals. Markfield, on its verge, was (as its name indicates) an enclosure on the "mark" or boundary of the Forest. The rocks surmounted by a windmill standing close to Shaw Lane, are named Runcliff, a corruption of "Raven's Cliff," Rafn being a man's name well known among the Danes, and the Cliff having once probably been the property of a Scandinavian adventurer, who may also have been the founder of Ravenstone or Raven's town. Benns Cliff, Hammer Cliff, Ive's Head, Lub Cloud, Pelder Tor, High Cadman, and others, are designations which only tend to stimulate rather than to satisfy curiosity. Among this class also may be mentioned another elevation, "Chitterman Hill," less known to fame than any of its contemporaries; but which, if less lofty, commands a most extensive view reaching to Stathern Rise, in the Vale of Belvoir, Burrow Hill, and other well known points remote from the spectator, Leicester and its spires shooting distinctly up in the lower prospect, six or seven miles away. But the view from "Chitterman Hill" is even less attractive to the antiquary than the object which lies on one of its slopes, a Gothic House of the fifteenth century. Of this kind of structure there are not many examples in this county; though it will be remembered that the attention of the society has been drawn to specimens, either now or recently in existence at Appleby, Donington on the Heath, and Medbourne. The house at Chitterman Hill is a peculiar specimen. It is not large enough for the squire's mansion of olden time; It has no embattled parapet, no tower of defence, no moat and drawbridge. It consists of bays, one lying at right angles to the other; one of these is still nearly in its original condition, and will be here briefly described; the other has been much altered and repaired. The ancient bay lies north and south, its sides of course facing east and west; on the east face are two windows in the upper story or solar, and two in the lower apartment, all square-headed and having stone mullions. The principal window has three lights, each of which is trifoliated, and the jambs and mullions are moulded. On the west side are two windows, namely, one opposite to the three-light window, and one below it, lighting the ground floor. The one opposite the three-light window is pointed, and has two lights; it is closed up with mortar, and all the lower windows are partially concealed by the earth heaped up against them. But one of the most noticeable parts of the building is not seen on an external view, being concealed by a lean-to; this is the doorway of the house, which

apparently was once approached either by a ladder or an outside staircase. The tradition is that the former was the means of access to the interior. It does not seem that the two bays are coeval, though they may have been nearly so. To determine their relative dates would require a minute examination of architectural details by a student more competent than I profess to be, to undertake the investigation. I may however mention there are some matters indicative of the antiquity of this portion of the structure. For example, there is the wood work, and there is a door with hinges or straps, and latch of Gothic pattern. Altogether, the house is evidently of the Perpendicular period, and was erected between the year 1460 and 1500. It seems well adapted for the residence of a yeoman; and probably as it stands within a mile of Ulverscroft Priory, whose richly endowed monks owned all the district for miles around, it belonged originally to that society. It may have been the house of the Priory Bailiff, who had charge of the labourers on the estate, and who directed the agriculture of the land for the Prior and his brethren. It is certainly an interesting structure. As the visitor contemplates it, he is carried back to the age in which it was thus occupied, when the spot (now secluded enough) was solitary, and tranquil as a log hut in a forest; and when the tenant isolated himself from the world, and cut off the approach of strangers by drawing up the ladder at the door nightly; being able, by means of an unglazed opening near the south-west angle of the building, to look out on the unknown visitor, and bow in hand, with bolt ready to discharge, to keep off unwelcome intruders. The house has long been known as 'Pilgrim's.' Here, for successive generations, Elnathan Pilgrims dwelt—freeholders and farmers. One of them was a steward to an Earl of Stamford, dying about the year 1730. He bore arms allusive to the name. What more probable than that on the downfall of the priory, some pilgrim connected with it got possession of the building and the freehold, which until lately the Pilgrim family possessed? At my request, Mr. Dudgeon, the artist, has obligingly forwarded for your examination to-day, two views in watercolour of the old structure, and one of the doorway. He has produced not only accurate and charming representations, but works of art of a high order, in which he has seized and vividly delineated the antiquarian aspects of this old forest abode. Such sketches are indeed invaluable to all admirers of ancient and picturesque architecture.

At the conclusion of the paper, Mr. Thompson produced two watercolour drawings, by Mr. Dudgeon, of Leicester, of the east front and north-west side of the house, as illustrations of the paper. They elicited the admiration of the meeting, not only as preserving the antiquarian features of the building, but from their high excellence as artistic productions.

With reference to Mr. Thompson's paper, Mr. North produced, by permission of the Curator of the Leicester Museum, a Loughborough Tradesman's Token, found some time ago near the above-mentioned house, issued by Henry Somerville; and which is included in the List of Leicestershire Tokens already published by this Society.

Mr. North further produced (by permission of the Curator of the Leicester Museum) a fragment of Samian Ware, discovered in Jewry Wall Street, Leicester, the peculiarity of which consists in having the maker's name, Paterni, stamped on the *outside*, the almost invariable custom having been to stamp the potter's name or mark on the bottom of the inside of the vessel. Mr. Wright gives the name "Paterni" in his list in the *The Celt, Roman, and Saxon*.

The Rev. J. H. Hill, Rector of Cranoe, read the following paper upon

NOSELY.

In the reign of King Edward the Confessor, the lordship of Nosely was worth twenty shillings a-year, and in 1266 it was twice that value. Hugo de Grentesmainell was the possessor. The land was equal to eight ploughs, two of which, with three bondmen, were employed in the demesne, and sixteen villains, with a priest and eight bordars, had six ploughs. There were twenty acres of brushwood (Domesday, fol. 232, a. col. 2).

Grentesmainell, in the year 1085, gave the church of Nosely and two virgates of land here to the priory of St. Ebrulph, (Ord. Vit. 603,) and the lordship then descended to the Earl of Leicester, under which it was held by the family of Martivall.

William de Martivall (de Mortua Valle) with the consent of Robert Earl of Leicester (being present) gave to the abbot and convent of St. Mary in the meadows of Leicester, two virgates of land here; afterwards Ralph Martivall gave four virgates.

Stephen de Segrave exchanged a virgate of land, at Nosely, with the abbots and convent of St. Mary, at Leicester, for lands of that abbey in Segrave.

The abbot and convent of Croxton also possessed some property in this lordship.

Anketin de Martivall was lord of Nosely 1250. In 1268 he was Sheriff of the County.

In 1273 Sir Anketin de Martivall, son of the preceding, formed a chantry in the chapel of his mansion house here, which was afterwards enlarged by his son Roger to a collegiate church.

In 1297, Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, brother of Edward I., died seized of divers lands at Nosely.

In 1303 (32 of Edward), Roger de Martivall had leave to give

to the chapel of Nosely three messuages, six virgates of land, and eight marks rent, in Stretton, Nosely, and Gilmorton; the messuages and land at Nosely being then held *in capite* under the Earl of Leicester, by the annual acknowledgment of a rose flower.

In 1306 (35, Edward I.), the King confirmed a gift which had been made by Anketin de Martival to the chapel at Nosely, and the chaplains there performing divine service, of one messuage of divers land in Hallaton, Slawston, and Houghton,—"*cum villanis, predicta, tenementa tenentibus, et eorum sequelis, in perpetuum. Teste rege apud Scum Albanum.* 16 *Die Junii.*"

Roger de Martival is ranked by Fuller among the Worthies of the County of Leicester. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, to the library of which college he gave several MSS., as may be learned from the inscription at the beginning of them; and his name, with the title of Archdeacon of Leicester, occurs, with several others of that college, in a manuscript in their Exchequer. It was in 1294 that Roger de Martival was collated to the prebend of St. Margaret's, and the Archdeaconry of Leicester. Willis says he gave up the prebend, but accepted the archdeaconry, which he held until the fourth year of Edward II. (1310), when he was elected Dean of Lincoln. He was elected Bishop of Salisbury, April 27th, 1315, and died March 18th, 1329, and was buried at Salisbury. "Now seeing Bishop Godwin," says Fuller, "hath nothing more of him save his name and date."—(Roger de Martival, Dean of Lincoln, consecrated 1315 (9, Edw. II.), died 1322, about the middle of Lent. Godwin); "it is charity to inform posterity that he was the last heir male of his house, and founded a college at Noseley." He left Joyce, his sister and heir, who was married to Robert de Waddington, whose daughter and sole heir was married to Sir Ralph Hastings, who by her had an only child, Margaret, heir to her mother, and married first to Sir Roger Heron, by whom she had issue three daughters—Isabel, Margaret, and Elizabeth. There is a monument in Nosely Church to Margaret, daughter of Sir Ralph de Hastings, Kt., widow of Sir Roger Heron, afterwards of Sir John Blacket, Kt., of Nosely, with this inscription:—"*Hic jacet domina Margareta, uxor Johannis Blacket, quondam uxor Rogeri Heroni, militis filia Radulphi Hastings—obiit an.* 1406, *cujus anima propitietur Deus. Amen.*" Arms, Azure, a bend coticed between six cross crosslets, fitchy, or, for Blacket, quartered with gules, three hatchets or axes, or.

The family of Hezilrigge descended from Roger de Hezilrigge, Knight, who accompanied William the Conqueror to England. The manor of Nosely came into the family of Hezlerigge by Isabel Heron, who married Thomas Hezelrigge, of Fawden, County of Northumberland; and Wotton says that this family assumed their surname from the town of Hezilrige, County of Northumberland. This Thomas de Hezilrige was the third son of William and Joan

Hezelrigge, and greatly advanced his estate; for, by his wife he not only gained Nosely, but also the manor of Gilmorton. He married, 4, Henry IV.; and died, 3, Henry VI. (1424); He was succeeded by his son Thomas de Hazlerigg, Dominus de Nosely, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Brocket, Knight. By an indenture between himself and John Jobby, custos, or rector of Nosely, he and his son William granted to the custos, chaplains, and their successors, a piece of land in Nosely called Le Barne Yard, and a croft, with standing water, &c., for twenty-eight years, upon the payment of two roses annually, on St. John the Baptist's day, and performing divine obsequies in the manner following, viz., that the rector, chaplains, and their successors, after the deaths of Thomas and Elizabeth, his then wife, and William and Elizabeth his then wife, should say once a year, for the health of their souls, the full service for the dead, with the mass *in Crastino de Requiem*, and the service to be said for any of them that died first, once a year, until the death of them all. Dated October 9, (5, Edward IV.). He died in 1467, possessed of the manor of Nosely, held of the King by the service of half a knight's fee, as of the honour of Leicester. He was buried in Nosely Church, and the following is his epitaph, upon an incised alabaster stone:

"*Hic jacent Thomas Hesylrige, armiger, et Elizabeth, uxora ejus, qui obiit die Sancto Michælis archangeli, litera Dominicali D. Anno Domini milesimo cccc*$^{no.}$ *sexagesimo septimo: quorum animabus propitietur Deus. Amen.*"

The arms upon the slab are, 1 Hesilrige, 2 Martival, 3 a chevron, between two leopards' faces; Broket impaling three choughs. Two figures are sculptured upon the slab: Thomas Hesilrige, in armour, and Elizabeth his wife, in long robes and a close veil; both in a posture of devotion.

Thomas Hesilrige was succeeded by his son William Hesilrige, who married Elizabeth, the daughter and co-heir of Thomas Staunton, of Staunton and Castle Donington. By their marriage they had—1 Thomas; 2 Robert, one of the gentlemen ushers to Henry VIII.; 3 John: and two daughters—Catherine, married to Thomas Ashby, of Quenby; and Ruth, married to Richard Neale, of Prestwold, Justice of the Common Pleas. William died in 1473, and was buried at Nosely, near to his father. His epitaph runs thus:

"*Hic jacet Will's Hesilrige, armig' et Elizabeth uxor ejus, quo'd'm d'nus de Nowesley, qui Willielmus obiit die Sancti Mathei, litera Dominicali ... Anno mccccl*x*xiii., quor' animab' propitietur Deus. Amen.*"

This alabaster slab is partly covered by a monument, but the inscription has been supplied from Burton, who noticed on the tomb the arms of Martival, and also those of Staunton; and also Staunton impaling Hazelrig. The figure of a cock was the family crest of

Elizabeth Staunton; and the figure of the cock is carved upon the stalls, which are of very fine execution for their late date.

"It was not uncommon at this time to impale the wife's coat before the husband's; for oftentimes when the branches of families had married great heiresses, and thereby had much enlarged their own estates, they did not only impale the woman's coat before the man's, but many times waive, and quite leave out the bearing of their own, substituting their wife's or mother's coat in its room."—*Burton.*

The next possessor of Nosely was Thomas Hazelrige, who was Sheriff of this County in 1501, and who in 1520 was Esquire of the body to King Henry VIII., in a treaty of peace held in London between the Kings of England and France. Leland mentions him under the head of "Gentilmen of Leycestershire that be of most reputation." He married Lucy Entwyssel, of the old family of Entwyssel, who died October 8, 1525, having had eighteen children, ten sons and eight daughters. Thomas de Hesilrige died at Nosely, and was buried in the church, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Bertram Heselrige, Esq., who married the daughter of John Southill, Esq., of Stockerston; he died in the July of 1565, possessed of the Manor of Nosely, and the advowson of the charity or college there, valued at £20. per annum, and held of the king, as the honour of Leicester, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, by the service of half a knight's fee.

His epitaph in Nosely Church runs thus:

"*Hic jacet corpus Bertini Heselrige, Armigeri, qui obiit* 25 *die Julii, anno* 7 *Elizabethæ*, 1565. The dayes of man are determined, and the number of his years are with the Lord, which boundes no flesh can passe."

We next come to Miles Heselrige as possessor of Nosely, who married Bridget, daughter of Sir Thomas Griffin, of Braybrooke, County of Northampton, of which marriage proceeded two sons, Thomas and Edward, who died 1566, leaving Thomas his son and heir. Edward married Anne, daughter of Thomas Nichols, of Hardwicke, County of Leicester.

Thomas Hesilrige was Lord of Nosely by descent from his father, and marrying Ursula, daughter of Sir Thomas Andrewes, of Charwelton, knight, had one son, Thomas, and three daughters: Bridget, who died without issue; Mary, married to William Stafford, of Blatherwick; and Joan, wife of Anthony Forest, of Maborne, County of Huntingdon.

In 1590 the manor was extended for a debt of Thomas Heselrige, Esq., and let by Queen Elizabeth to Andrew and Edward Heselrige for ninety years.

Thomas Heselrige died May, 1600, and was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was High Sheriff of Leicestershire 1613; he was chosen knight of the shire 1614 and 1623, and in 1622 was

advanced to the dignity of a baronet. He married Frances, daughter and heiress of William Gorges, of Alderton, County of Northampton. By this marriage were fourteen children, Donald, Robert, Thomas, who died s.p., Sir Arthur, John, and Thomas, and several daughters.

On a brass plate in Alderton Church is the following epitaph to Thomas Heselrige:

Tempore ereptum
Æternitati custodit hic lapis
Johannem Heselrige, armigerum,
Thomæ Haselrige, baronetti, filium natu tertium
Quâ nobilitate genitus sit, testatur nomen:
Quâ educatus, Pietas: quâ vixit, Famâ:
Tria hæc moriens reliquit æternum sibi monumentum.
Luge, Lector, sed parce: est ubi convenias, in Dei manibus.

Sir Thomas Heselrige died Jan. 11, 1629, aged 66, and was succeeded in his estate and baronetcy by the celebrated Sir Arthur Heselrige, his eldest surviving son.

Against the North wall of Nosely Church, there is a large tomb of alabaster erected to the memory of Sir Thomas Heselrige and his wife. The figures of Sir Thomas and his lady are lying at length, his head on his helmet and plume, hers on a cushion, their hands closed, raised in prayer. Sir Thomas, in a military dress, with large beard and ruff, his gauntlets under his feet, and below them the family crest. The Lady Heselrige in close robes, large ruff, hair combed back under a cap, studded with gold, and at the back of her head a veil unopened, over them in the pediment were placed the figures of their eight sons and six daughters, also in the attitude of prayer.

The following is the inscription:

"Here lyeth Sir Thomas Heselrige, Knight and Baronett, who, while he lived, was trusted with the places of greatest honour and power in the country. He was prudent and of impartial justice, of great temperance and sobriety, he died Jan. 11, 1629, aged 66.

"Here lyes by him Dame Frances Hesilrige, daughter and heire of William Gorge, of Aldrington, in the County of Northampton, Esq., she was of choice endowments, both of mind and body: she adorn'd her family with fine cloth of her owne spining.

"Sir Thos. had by her eight sons and six daughters.

"She died in the year 1668."

At the west end of the monument is the following inscription:

"*Vivit solum post funera Virtus.*"

At the east end: Arms. Hesilrige and Gorge. Also the arms and quarterings of Heselrige and Gorge. They are described in "Harl. MSS., 1180," p. 42.

We come next to Sir Arthur Hesilrige, who was elected a representative of the County of Leicester, 1640. Lord Grey of Ruthin was his colleague. Sir Richard Halford having said that

his countrymen had chosen (in Sir Arthur Hesilrige) a knight who had more will than wit, was, on a petition from the freeholders and inhabitants of the County, sent for by the Commons as a delinquent, and committed for some days to the Tower. The history of this illustrious republican is well known. Sir Arthur commanded for the Parliament, as colonel, a regiment of Cuirassiers, called "The Lobsters," which performed some signal services. He died in the Tower of London, and his remains were permitted to be honourably conveyed to Nosely with great funeral pomp, and interred amongst his ancestors at Nosely. There is a fine monument erected to his memory in Nosely Church, whereon at length, on a tablet, is the figure of Sir Arthur in a full suit of mail, his head upon a cushion placed upon his helmet, in his right hand a baton, in his left his sword. Both his wives are in full but very close robes, their hair concealed under their caps, over which are large veils. One of the ladies has her right hand falling down her garment, the left hand laid upon the breast. The other lady is represented sideways, her head resting on her right hand; her left, holding a book, falling down on her robe. The inscriptions are as follows:

Here lyes Sir Arthur Hesilrige, Bart.,
Who injoyed his portion of this life
In ye times of greatest civill troubles,
Yt ever this nation had.
He was a lover of liberty,
And faithfull to his country.
He delighted in sober company;
And departed this life 7th of January,
In England's peaceable year, A.D., 1660.

Here lyes Dame Frances Heselrige,
Daughter of Thomas Elmes, of Lilford,
In the County of Northampton, Esq.,
She was charitable, prudent, vertuous, and a loving Wife.
Sir Arthur Heselrige had by her two sons and two daughters.
She dyed in the year 1632.
Here lyes Dame Dorothea Heselrige, sister to Robert Greevil,
Lord Brooke, and Baron of Beauchamps Court.
God gave to her true and great wisdome, and a large and just heart:
She did much good in her generation.
Sir Arthur Heselrige had by her three sons and five daughters.
She left this life January 28, 1650.

On the bordure of the tomb below, all kneeling, are the figures of the children mentioned above. Against the eldest son of the first wife is the following:

"This is Arthur Heselrige, eldest son of Dame Dorothea. He was of rare endowments and incomparable learning for his age, both in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French; of singular witt and judgment; of sweet nature, and very pious. He dyed in the 12th year of his age, 1649."

Sir Arthur Hesilrige was succeeded by his only surviving son by the first marriage Sir Thomas Hesilrige. By the mediation,

of the Duke of Albemarle, and by services rendered to the cause of royalty, he was restored to those lands which his father enjoyed. He married Elizabeth, daughter of George Fenwicke, Esq., of Brinckbourne, County of Northumberland (the ancestor of Rev. Gerard Fenwicke, of Blaston, Leicestershire), and had issue one son, Sir Thomas, who succeeded him. Sir Thomas died February 24, 1680; his wife May 30th, 1673.

Sir Thomas Hesilrige, his only son and successor, was high sheriff of Leicestershire, 1686, and was member for the county 1690. He died unmarried 1700, *ætat.* 36, devising a considerable part of his property to his sister Arabella.

The dignity and entailed estate after his death devolved upon his uncle, Sir Robert Hesilrige, Bart., the eldest surviving son of Sir Arthur. This Robert Hesilrige resided for some time in St. Peter's parish, Northampton. He purchased from the Corporation of that town, in 1678, the site of ground upon which Northampton Castle stood, about three acres, for the sum of £50. He married Bridget, daughter of Sir Samuel Rolle, of Heanton, Devon, Knight, by whom he had five sons and four daughters. Sir Robert died May, 1713, and was buried in Nosely Church where is a free-stone slab placed in memory of him. He was succeeded by his son, Robert Hesilrige, who married Dorothy, second daughter of Banaster, Lord Maynard. He resided principally in St. Peter's parish, Northampton. He died May 19, 1721, leaving one son, Sir Arthur, and one daughter.

Sir Arthur Hesilrige, Baronet, his successor, was a great patron of the fine arts. He went to Rome, 1723, and brought home many curiosities, with which he adorned the house at Nosely, which was partially rebuilt. It was Sir Robert who modernized the inside of the Collegiate Church; but after making these alterations, he still continued to make Northampton his chief residence. He married Hannah, daughter of Mr. Sturges. By this union he had nine sons and seven daughters. He died at Northampton, 1763, and was succeeded by his son, Robert Hesilrige. Sir Arthur Hesilrige repurchased (by Act of Parliament) the estates which had been severed from the inheritance of his ancestors at Nosely.

Sir Robert Hesilrige, Baronet, married Sarah, daughter of Nathaniel Waller, Esq., and had one son and two daughters. Sarah, married to David Henly, Esq., and Hannah, married to the Rev. Thomas Abbot. At the death of Sir Robert, Sir Arthur, his son, succeeded to his title; but he died without issue at Bengal, when he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Maynard Hesilrige, who, though twice married, died in 1817, without any issue. The late owner of the manor of Nosely was Sir Arthur Grey Hesilrige. He was the grandson of Sir Arthur Hesilrige, the seventh baronet of Nosely, and son of Colonel Grey Heselrige, and he married Henrietta Anne, daughter of John Bourne, Esq., of Stanch Hall,

Hants., by whom he had issue three sons and one daughter. Sir Arthur died, October 24th, 1819, when he was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Arthur Grey Hazlerigg, as twelfth baronet, who married Henrietta, daughter of Charles Allan Phillipps, Esq., and has a numerous issue. The present baronet is highly respected in the County of Leicester, as a generous landlord, a kind friend to the poor, a liberal supporter of the Leicestershire charitable institutions, and is ever forward in promoting every good work.

I believe that the existing Church of Nosely is the collegiate chapel of Roger de Martivall, archdeacon of Leicester, not only (as Canon James says) from the style of the architecture agreeing with his date, but from the distinctly collegiate form of the building. Nichols gives it a much later date, owing to the windows having been deprived of their mullions; which happened, no doubt (together with other alterations), when Sir Arthur Hesilrige returned from Rome, in 1723. There was a great rage for modernizing churches in those days; an instance of a like kind having happened in 1724, in the parish church at Welham. In the Registry of Bishop D'Alderby, at Lincoln, is a regular agreement between Roger de Martivall, then Archdeacon of Leicester and Lord of Nosely, and Simon de Rothwell, rector of the parish church, containing several privileges allowed to the chapel, and confirmed by the Bishop of Lincoln; and, as a compensation for the loss which the mother church might receive from these privileges, a messuage at Nosely, and a virgate of land there, were settled on the rector and his successors. The parish church stood about a quarter of mile from the collegiate church, in a field still called the churchyard close; but since the year 1344 no further mention has been made of the parish church of Nosely.

I cannot conclude this without making a remark about the manner in which the service is conducted at Nosely. It is with great gratification that I can say, the musical services are performed in a truly admirable manner, much to the credit of the ladies of Nosely Hall. The church itself, in neatness and cleanliness, is second to none in the county; and when you enter it, you see at once that you are entering a fine remain of the olden time. One of the most interesting ecclesiastical buildings in the county is the church of Nosely, built by Roger de Martivall, the worthy Archdeacon of Leicester; and long may it stand, a monument of his piety.

The name of Hazlerigg has been spelt in various ways, as is common with families of long standing, viz.: Hezilrigge, Hazlerigg, Hesylrige, Hazelrige, Hasilrige, Hesilrige, &c.

The Very Rev. The Dean of Waterford was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Society, after which the meeting closed.

30*th November*, 1863.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Letters were read from Earl Howe, W. S. Dugdale, Esq., of Merevale, and other gentlemen, stating the pleasure it would give them to further the wishes and interests of the Society, at its intended meeting at Hinckley, next year.

Mr. North (Hon. Sec.) announced the following donations towards the preservation of the Jewry Wall: The Right Hon. Earl Howe, £3.; W. Perry Herrick, Esq., £3.; Sir H. Dryden, Bart., £1.; Sir H. Halford, Bart., £1,: Lord John Manners, M.P., £1.; W. U. Heygate, Esq., M.P., £1. 1s.; Thomas Stokes, Esq., £1.; J. D. Harris, Esq., £1.; Josh. Whetstone, Esq., £1.; Alfred Ellis, Esq., £1.; Messrs. Evans and Stafford, 10s. 6d.

The Rev. J. H. Hill proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Alfred Ellis, and carried unanimously: "That this Society takes this, its first opportunity, of recording its deep sorrow at the decease of the Rev. Canon James, late Vicar of Theddingworth, and one of its first honorary members, and of expressing its conviction of the great loss this and kindred societies have sustained in his death, and of its high appreciation of his many amiable qualities and scholarly attainments."

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society for the coming year, 1864: Thomas Cope, Esq., Osbaston Hall; Roger D. Miles, Esq., Keyham; Thomas Haymes, Esq., Thirsk; H. L. Powys Keck, Esq., Stoughton Grange; Wm. Slater, Esq., Carlton Chambers; the Rev. H. L. Watson, Sharnford; the Rev. Richard Waterfield, Thurcaston; the Rev. Thomas Hassall, Rearsby.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:

By Mr Superintendent Deakins, a shilling and a sixpence of Queen Elizabeth, both dated 1572, and lately found in an allotment garden near the parish church, Lutterworth; also a farthing of Charles I., found in removing the foundation of the old school at Shawell, preparatory to the erection of a new building, in 1862.

By Mr. North, two Tradesmen's Tokens, found with other coins in Market Harborough Church, during its restoration, a few years ago. One, issued by Robert Bass, of Market Harborough, at the Hart Inn, in 1668, and, in allusion to that sign, heart-shaped; the other, coined by George Almond, of Medbourne, in 1667. The other coins found at the same time included a Northamptonshire Tradesman's Token, issued by John Collier, "IN ROELL, 1658"; a farthing of Charles I., inscribed on the obverse, "CARO. D.G. MAG. BRI.", and on the reverse, "FRA. ET HIB. REX," being one of the authorized farthings, the privi-

lege of making which was granted to private individuals, for their own benefit, and which caused endless discontent among the people, from the fact of their being much below their nominal value; they, in consequence, failed in superseding the Tradesmen's Tokens, notwithstanding the proclamations for abolishing the latter; and several Nuremburg tokens, issued by Hans Kranwinckle, two of which bore the inscription, "GOTTES. GABEN, SOL, MAN, LOB."

By Mr. Joseph Goddard, a small bronze coin of Constantine the Great, struck at Treves, lately found near the Horse-water, Belgrave Gate, Leicester.

By the Rev. A. Pownall, of South Kilworth Rectory, what is believed to be an unique penny of Athelstan I., found in Northamptonshire, and upon which he communicated the following remarks:

This coin presents an unpublished type of the money of that Athelstan who is supposed in some way to have been governing in East Anglia during the reign of Egbert, about the middle of the first half of the ninth century; and who is probably the son of Ethelwolf, to whom, on succeeding to the throne, that sovereign gave "the kingdoms of the Kentish men, and of the East Saxons, and of the men of Surrey, and of the South Saxons," as is recorded in the "*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*," under the year 836 A.D. Besides this prince, there are two others bearing the name of Ethelstan, whose coins we possess; one of them being, of course, the grandson of Alfred, and sole monarch of England in 925 A.D. "*Rex totius Britanniæ*," he is styled on some of his coins; and, judging by the high sounding titles used in many of the charters of his reign, it was not an appellation he disliked. His money is comparatively common for he had sixty places of mintage in the kingdom, and we know the names of more than a hundred of his moneyers. More rare, however, are the coins attributed to the Danish leader Guthrum, who assumed the name of Ethelstan when he was baptized, in the year 878. At first the enemy, at last the godson and friend of Alfred, we find this Guthrum mentioned, with two other Danish chiefs, as "sitting down" before the town of Cambringe, for a whole year, 875 A.D.; and three years afterwards, in the summer of 878, he was beaten into right good friendship by our great king. Taking up his abode in East Anglia, as a sort of lieutenant or deputy for Alfred, Guthrum, *alias* Ethelstan, appears to have contributed by his efforts towards the peaceable settlement of that portion of the English domain. On a certain occasion, also, he was employed in a more private capacity, with one Sighelm, "to carry to Rome the alms which the King had vowed to send thither" (*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*); this was in 883 A.D., and seven years later he died. Scarcer than the coins of the King of all England, his money is, however, more common than that of the prince I have named first, one of whose coins forms the subject of

the present communication. It reads ETHELSTANI on the obverse, having the letter A in the centre, as is usually found on the money of East Anglia; and it bears the moneyer's name—TORHTHELM—a name already known: but the *cross moline* on the reverse distinguishes it completely from all other published types of this prince's coinage, and connects it closely with a coin of his father Ethelwolf, which is figured in Ruding (*Annals of Coinage, plate xxx.* 16). The forms of the letters on these curious pieces are very remarkable; indeed, it is chiefly by them, and by the general character of the workmanship, that numismatists are enabled to arrange the various mintages of that early period of English history. I would specially call attention to the shape of the letter M, and to that which for the Saxon eye represented the sound "TH." In the coin exhibited, these letters are very different in form from the same letters as they appear on the coins of King Athelstan, a hundred years later. I will only say, in addition, that this singularly rare and interesting coin came into my possession recently, through the kindness of a friend in Northamptonshire, in whose parish it was found about two years ago. Turned up by a farm labourer with the plough, I am told it only just escaped the "drill," for its first owner was greatly tempted to pierce it, and then wear it at his watch chain, in compliance with the present fashion.

By Mr. Henry Goddard, a small pectoral cross of bronze, about two inches high; a small bronze coin of Valens, both lately found in Leicester; and the neck of an amphora, of very large size, found in excavating for the new Gas Office, Millstone Lane, Leicester.

By the Rev. J. H. Hill, drawings of a flint celt, and of two pieces of pottery, found some time ago at Nosely, and now in the possession of Sir A. G. Hazlerigg, Bart. Judging from the ornamentation of the pottery, as shown in the drawings, it would belong to the Early British period, being chiefly composed of zigzags and parallel lines.

Mr. North communicated the discovery of a small leaden coffin, in the parish of Smeeton-Westerby, in this county. The coffin (which is two feet seven inches in length, by eight inches in width, at the one end, and twelve inches at the other,) was dug up by men procuring gravel in an orchard, at the southern extremity of Smeeton, that is, midway between the hamlets of Smeeton and Westerby, now forming the parish of Smeeton-Westerby, at a depth of about three feet from the surface. It is rudely made of two pieces of tolerably thick lead, without solder or any fastening at the ends, the lead being merely folded up, and the ends bent back over the sides. The piece forming the lid or top was also bent over the sides, in the same manner as the ends, and had been fastened with nails, as may be judged from the holes, but the nails

themselves have rusted away. Within the coffin was a small human skeleton, which when first seen, was apparently perfect, but it was quickly disturbed, and some of the bones crumbled to dust. Mr. Macaulay, surgeon, having examined the bones, pronounces them to be the remains of a young child. The leaden coffin is much corroded at the place where the head of the child lay. Its lid, which is tolerably perfect, bears no letter or marks of any kind upon it. There is no appearance to indicate the presence of a wooden coffin having been used with the leaden one. Upon the coffin a number of large rough stones had been thrown before the earth was replaced. Nothing of a similar kind has been found in the immediate neighbourhood of this coffin; but an aged parishioner remembers some skeletons without coffins being dug up, many years ago, in another part of the same gravel-bed, about 200 yards from the spot where the coffin lay. He also reports that his grandfather used to relate, that before his time the plague was very bad in Smeeton, and that many bodies were buried in various parts of the village without coffins or funeral rites.

ALDERMAN NEWTON'S NEW SCHOOLS.

Messrs. Goddard and Son, architects, produced for the inspection and criticism of the Society, their approved plans and working drawings of the new schools shortly to be erected in St. Martin's, Leicester, by the trustees of Alderman Newton's charity.

The Schools, which will be Gothic in style, of the Late Perpendicular period, will stand back from the street about 140 feet. The ground in front (a portion of which, it is hoped, will eventually be used as the site for the master's house,) will partly be planted with shrubs, and partly used as a play-ground for the children. The school-room, which will, internally, be a parallelogram in form, will measure sixty feet by twenty-five feet, and the height from the floor to the level of the wall-plate will be twenty-four feet, with an open high-pitched roof above. A class-room, twenty-four feet by fourteen feet, will be on the south-east side, with cloak and book rooms on each side of the porch. Externally, the buildings will present, without the expense of much ornamentation, a handsome and picturesque appearance; and they will be a great improvement to the locality in which they will stand.

The Society congratulated the trustees on the choice of the national style of architecture for the new schools, in place of the exotic or no-style buildings, which until lately were so generally erected.

Considerable discussion took place with respect to some of the internal features of the school, which were, however, satisfactorily and clearly explained by the architects. With regard to the plan, as a whole, Mr. Alfred Ellis, one of the trustees of the charity,

remarked, that without desiring a building of too ornate a character, the trustees did wish the schools to be in some sort a memorial of their munificent founder, and as such they were anxious to have them built, architecturally, as good and as handsome as the funds will permit.

After remarks from Mr. Ordish, Mr. Thompson, Mr. North, and other gentlemen present, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

"That the Society having examined the designs and working drawings of the new school in connection with Alderman Newton's Charity, is of opinion, that in pictorial effect and general arrangement they are highly satisfactory."

RAGDALE HALL.

Mr. Dudgeon, artist, sent for exhibition several extremely beautiful watercolour and india-ink drawings of Ragdale Hall, in this county.

Mr. James Thompson (using Mr. Dudgeon's pictures as illustrations to his remarks) read the following paper upon Ragdale Hall:

Rakedale is supposed by Nichols, the county historian, to have taken its name from a remarkable break, or *rake*, which forms a very deep dale, beginning about a quarter of a mile above the village, through which it extends itself a considerable distance, till it gradually diminishes to so small a breadth as only to allow the passage of a little brook, which runs to Hoby, and there falls into the river Wreake.

Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton, was the proprietor of the manor, in the reign of Richard II. He died without issue, in the year 1389. As he was then seized in fee simple of the estate, he entailed Ragdale and the adjacent lordship of Willows upon his nephew, Sir Hugh Shirley, Knight, the son of his sister Isabella, who had married Sir Thomas Shirley. The condition of the entail was repugnant to Sir Hugh Shirley, who refused to assume the arms and name of Basset. He was a high-spirited man, and prouder of the name of Shirley than he would have been of that of Basset. He was the grand falconer of Henry IV., and the "valiant Shirley" of Shakespeare. At the battle of Shrewsbury, when Douglas encounters King Henry, the dramatist introduces Prince Henry, who enters to rescue his father, and who, before attacking the Scotch warrior, says:

> "The spirits
> Of valiant Shirley, Stafford, Blunt, are in my arms."

Sir Hugh fell on the field, clad in royal armour.

Through the refusal of this knight to fulfil the condition of his uncle's entail of Rakedale, law disputes ensued between him and

the Earl of Stafford, who claimed under an *old* entail, made in 1340, by Ralph, Lord Basset, his grandfather. Between thirty and forty years elapsed in litigation, when Rakedale was finally released to Sir Ralph Shirley, Knight, by the feoffees of the said Ralph, Lord Basset.

Thenceforward the Shirleys remained in undisputed possession of Rakedale. Their original *nidus* in this county was here; for it was not until some generations had passed away that they were seated at Staunton Harold. That property came into their possession, in fact, through the marriage of Sir Ralph Shirley (the grandson of Sir Hugh) to Margaret Staunton, sister and heir of Thomas Staunton, their son, John Shirley, Esq., inheriting Staunton Harold, in right of his mother. He died in 1485, and was buried at Garendon Abbey.

As his son and his grandson did not live at Rakedale, but at Staunton Harold, it may be assumed there was no resident lord of the manor in the former village in their lifetimes; but early in the reign of Elizabeth, John Shirley, Esq., the great grandson of the inheritor of Staunton Harold, settled at Rakedale; and it is no unfair presumption to suppose he built the manor house of that period. He died in 1570.

His son was Sir George Shirley, who was sheriff of this county about the year 1603, and who, eight years after, was created a baronet. To him may be attributed the enlargement of the Elizabethan manor house in the style prevalent in the reign of James I., and the substitution of red brick, as a building material, in the place of timber. He died in the year 1622.

To Sir George succeeded Sir Henry, whose alliance with the Devereux family ultimately raised his descendants in rank, and gratified their ambition. The lady to whom he was allied was Dorothy Devereux, daughter of Robert, Earl of Essex, and co-heiress to her brother, Robert, Earl of Essex. In the days of Sir Henry and Lady Dorothy the old manor house of Rakedale was considerably "beautified." They were proud of their ancestry, and delighted in the insignia of the races from whom they had descended. Sir Henry, therefore, added the east bow and projecting porch to the front, about the year 1629; and above the door he caused to be carved in stone the family coat of arms, containing fifty quarterings; thus showing the families with which he was connected, by alliance and descent; the last of the fifty quarterings being that of Paris, of Lincolnshire, from which, obviously, the shield of Pares has been derived. On each side of this coat of arms are two others, that to the left of the spectator being the coat of Sir Henry's mother, who was Frances, daughter of Edward, Lord Berkeley, and that to the right the coat of Devereux, his wife's family. On the sides of the doorway are the crests of Shirley and Devereux. In the parlour, on a finely emblazoned shield, carved in wood, over the

chimney breast, are eight quarterings; those on the dexter being the coats of Shirley, and those on the sinister the quarterings of Devereux. The date of the work is fixed on one of the pseudo-classical pillars, which stands by the side of the panel, namely, 1631; and the initials H. D. S. (Henry and Dorothy Shirley) plainly indicate under whose directions the carving was executed. In the oak wainscot of the chamber over the parlour the arms of Shirley and Devereux were also carved. Sir Henry was a great lover of genealogy as well as heraldry; as by his directions the fine family pedigree (now preserved at Staunton Harold) was completed, in 1632. In the year ensuing he died.

Sad times for the Shirleys followed. The only son of Sir Henry who lived to perpetuate the stock was his second son, who was a devoted royalist, and who was imprisoned seven times in the Tower, where he died in 1656, under thirty years of age. He erected the beautiful Gothic chapel at Staunton Harold, which remains a monument of his good taste, imperfect as may be the execution.

The misfortunes of the father, however, made the fortunes of the son, Robert. Only six years of age at his father's decease, he was elevated to the Barony of Ferrers of Chartley, in 1677, by King Charles II., who in this way recognized the great services of his loyal parent. The claim to the Barony of Ferrers, it should be stated, was based on the young baronet's descent from his grandmother, Dorothy Devereux. In the year 1711, he was created Earl of Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth. Towards the close of Charles the Second's reign, he built the largest bow to the old manor house at Rakedale, near its western extremity, and he made the place his hunting-seat, where he kept the hawks he used in falconry, the stone trough upon which they were fed being in existence about 1800, when Nichols published his volume of East Goscote Hundred.

It may be inferred that when the old house became a hunting-seat, the Shirleys gradually abandoned it as a residence; and this would take place after the decease of the first Earl, in 1717. About that time, doubtless, the proprietors let the place to a tenant named Henton. In the adjoining church lies George Henton, who died in the year 1731, aged 70; and who may be supposed to have been the first occupier after the first Earl's decease. Born in 1661, he was eleven years younger than that nobleman, and was probably a confidential tenant, treated on familiar terms by Lord Ferrers in his hunting seasons. Nichols (writing in 1799) says: "The old mansion house is at present inhabited by Mr. Henton, a substantial farmer, Earl Ferrers' tenant"; and it may be thence inferred that the oldfashioned tie of landlord and tenant had been preserved unbroken from the first lord's time to that of the seventh Earl Ferrers.

From these particulars, chiefly compiled from Nichols's History, we learn something of what the old hall has been in ancient times, and the history of the structure is so intimately inwoven with the history of the family that both gain in interest in consequence. I have therefore laid the pedigree details before you, previous to inviting your attention to two watercolour drawings of Rakedale Manor House, from Mr. Dudgeon's pen and brush, which have been kindly lent to me for exhibition to-day.

The first of these represents the building from a point south west of it. It gives the whole range of the front. The two gables nearest the spectator surmount the Jacobean portion of the edifice, that added by Sir George, the first baronet; the bay beneath the first gable having been added (as above stated) by the first Lord Ferrers, towards the close of Charles the Second's reign. Next to the two gables is the porch erected by Sir Henry, the second baronet, where often the falconer may be supposed to have stood, waiting for his master and Lady Dorothy, hawk on wrist, before they set out for the morning's recreation. Above the door is the shield with the fifty quarterings. Beyond the porch to the right, is the timbered dwelling of the reign of Elizabeth, raised by John Shirley, Esq., the father of the first baronet. To the right of this is a third gable, with bay beneath it, the latter made by Sir Henry. The *façade* is completed by an ancient wing with a modern frontage. It is not difficult to perceive from the roof lines that different parts have been erected at different periods.

In the second picture the front is taken from a south eastern locality. It shows the church, and the old market cross on its south side, more fully than the other view; the latter being particularly elegant and striking. The church has been much mutilated, and possesses little interest. All the other details of the hall will be recognized after the explanation of the first drawing.

From the two illustrations it will be seen that Rakedale Manor House stands second in picturesque effect to no building in the county, of its date, and perhaps has no rival. The drawings do ample justice to the subject, and afford the Society additional proofs of the high artistic accomplishment of its member, Mr. Dudgeon.

25th January, 1864.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The Secretary read a letter from Miss James acknowledging the resolution passed at the last Meeting.

Arrangements were made with regard to a General Meeting at Hinckley, in the summer of 1864, and a Sub-Committee formed to carry them out.

Mr. North (in the absence of the Treasurer) presented an audited Statement of Accounts for the past year, shewing a balance of £31. 16s. 0d. in favour of the Society.

The Honorary Secretary (Mr. North) presented, and read, the following Report of the Committee, for the year 1863:—

REPORT.

The recurrence of the Annual Meeting of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society imposes a duty upon its Committee to render, as upon previous occasions, a short account of its stewardship during its year of office.

In order to do this as concisely as possible, it may be well to speak of the Society—

I. As to its Position.
II. As to its Proceedings.
III. As to its Prospects.

The Committee for the previous year (1862) congratulated the Society upon its increased number of members. This congratulation can again be repeated, the member roll of the Society having been further strengthened by the addition of forty-nine names during the past year, whilst the loss by withdrawal and death has been very small.

This number of members gives the Leicestershire Society no mean position in the goodly band of similar institutions existing in the midland counties, and extends its influence in some degree more generally over the county, into most of the districts of which its publications now find their way, disseminating its principles, propounding its objects, and encouraging a taste for studies of an Archæological and Architectural character.

The Proceedings of the Society during the year just closed having differed little from those of previous years, may not seem to call for special remark. It may however, be said that the volume of the Associated Societies, placed in the hands of all the members, fully sustained the reputation of its predecessors, both as to the Reports and Papers printed, and the illustrations. The Rev. G. A. Poole's paper upon *Painted Glass* should be read by all who feel an interest—and what member of these Societies does not?—in an article now so extensively manufactured, and respecting which an opinion was expressed in our last Report. The contributions from the Leicestershire Society, consisting of the Rev. Prebendary Trollope's Paper upon *Bosworth Field*, and that of Mr. Roberts upon *St. Martin's Church*, have, no doubt, been read with interest by all the members. The former of these Papers was considerably enriched by an illustration contributed by Messrs. Goddard and Son, Architects, being an exact representation of the ancient Inn known as the White (afterwards the Blue) Boar, or King Richard's House, as it existed in Leicester in the time of Richard III. This drawing was made from exact dimensions taken of the edifice, and a careful examination of all its details previous to, and at, its unfortunate destruction in the year 1836. As this drawing had never before been published, not only all who feel an interest in the memorials of the Battle of Bosworth Field, an event which stands out so boldly in our local and national history, but also all students of the domestic architecture of that period, will feel indebted to Messrs Goddard and Son for their courtesy and liberality in placing so valuable a drawing at the disposal of the Society. In addition to this volume, the Committee have had the pleasure of handing to each of the members, free of charge, Part II. of the Transactions of their own Society, comprising an account of its meetings, exhibitions, and excursions, with the Papers read thereat during the year 1857, and part of 1858. This section of a volume contains various Papers of local and general interest, which it is thought will not be unacceptable to the members. For the illustrations to this part, the Society is again indebted to the artistic pencils of Mr. Joseph Goddard and Mr. Bellairs. The Rev. J. H. Hill and the General

Secretary of the Associated Societies also permitted the use of various steel plates and wood blocks, whilst the cost of printing two of the illustrations was defrayed by Mr. T. T. Paget and Mr. Thomas Nevinson. By the kindness and liberality of all these gentlemen, the interest of the Papers and the value of the publication is considerably enhanced.

The annual general summer meeting was held last year, in conjuction with the Northamptonshire Society, at Kibworth, and the usual excursion was made from thence. The Committee and they believe they may say all the members there present—look back upon both the meeting and the excursion with unmingled feelings of pleasure and gratification. The courtesy, kindness, and hospitality extended towards the members, and the interest shown in their proceedings by rich and poor fully compensated for all the trouble and expense necessarily attending the carrying out of their programme.

Tuesday and Wednesday, the 4th and 5th of August, were the days chosen for the proceedings. The first day was unusually wet—the rain scarcely ceasing to pour down in gloomy earnestness the whole day. This, however, did not prevent a goodly assemblage of the members of both Societies, and of the ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, in the parish church of S. Wilfred, where the day's proceedings commenced with Morning Prayer; after which Mr. Wm. Slater, Architect, of Carlton Chambers, London, described the architectural features of the fabric which had been recently restored under his care. As this description will be printed with illustrations in the forthcoming annual volume of the Associated Societies, it is unnecessary here to give even an abstract of Mr. Slater's remarks, which were listened to with considerable interest by all present.

From the church the party proceeded to inspect the contents of the temporary Museum in the National Schools: one room being devoted to Archæology, and the other to Architecture; the former was well supplied with objects of considerable interest and value, consisting of ancient swords, knives, rings, seals, keys, personal ornaments and dress; ancient books, letters, and manuscripts; many autographs; fine collections of coins and medals; a large collection of china, &c., &c. The Architectural room contained many drawings of Leicestershire churches, Architectural designs, views in Leicestershire, carvings in wood, and specimens of mural decoration and stencilling. Later in the afternoon a large party assembled, by invitation, at the house of Mrs. Buzzard, Kibworth Beauchamp, to inspect the ancient tapestry with which a large upper room in her house is completely covered. This gave much pleasure to those present. The tapestry was pronounced to be Flemish of the sixteenth century; and though the whole is in fair preservation, it was, on account of the anachronisms in dress, &c., and in consequence of some portions being cut away, an interesting puzzle to attempt to assign an origin for the various designs, which evidently embraced both scriptural and secular subjects. Various and conflicting and—it must be confessed, with regard to several of the designs—unsatisfactory attempts at solution were offered.

The gentlemen forming the Local Committee at Kibworth having given directions for the opening of a tumulus existing on the west side of the village, in a field adjoining the Leicester turnpike road, as many of the members as would encounter the pouring rain paid it a visit. The excavations, although undertaken in a most spirited and praiseworthy manner (those who know the large size of the tumulus will feel it required no ordinary courage to commence such a work), were not conducted in that careful and systematic way so necessary in such cases. Enough, however, was discovered in broken pottery, &c., to prove that it had been used as a place of interment in Roman times. Perhaps, had the excavations been continued lower than they were, the primary interment or interments might have been discovered.

After a Public Dinner at the Rose and Crown, to which about forty gentlemen sat down, the usual Public Evening Meeting was held in the Grammar School, where Papers were read:—

I. By Mr. Levien, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A., Some Notes on the Lords of the Manor of Kibworth.

II. By the Rev. M. Osborn, on the History and Antiquities of Kibworth.

III. By Mr. V. Wing (in his absence by Mr. North), on the Requirements of Gothic Architecture in order to a successful competition with the Works of Antiquity.

The Rev. Prebendary Trollope then gave a short description of the tumulus just referred to, with the results of the excavations; and Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., offered some remarks, both humorous and practical, upon the Architecture of Churches and their fittings.

The usual complimentary speeches closed the meeting, which was a very crowded one—all the available space in the room being occupied.

Fortunately for all concerned in the excursion, the following morning opened favourably, a bright sunshine welcomed all who assembled for an early breakfast at the village inn, previous to starting for the pleasures of the day. At half-past eight o'clock precisely the bugle sounded for the start. The party was quickly increased by the addition of many carriages which joined it on the rout, and the numbers soon reached about two hundred persons. And here the only disappointment of the day was deeply felt and expressed—the enforced absence of the Rev. Canon James, through indisposition. Mr. James had undertaken to be the interpreter of the churches during the excursion, and had a short time previously gone over the intended route in company with the Rev. J. H. Hill, in order to prepare himself for the occasion. In the meantime, however, his physical weakness had so much increased as to render his presence impossible. He nevertheless had, with that forethought and consideration for others which always distinguished him, written notes upon the various churches to be visited, which he transmitted to the Secretary for the guidance of any gentleman who, without preparation, might be called upon to fill his place. Since then, as we all know, his gentle spirit has passed from hence, leaving a void in Leicestershire which will be long felt, not only by all the clergy, but also by a large body of churchmen interested in, and anxious to promote, church extension and church work of every kind within the county. He has left an example of courtesy and kindness to all with whom he had any intercourse, of a highly cultivated mind and great scholarly attainments, made subservient to the encouragement of an extension of all that was good and beautiful, and likely to benefit his fellow-men or elevate their taste, which we shall do well to prize, and attempt to follow, but which we can scarcely hope to emulate.

The first place visited was Thorpe Langton, and there the Rev. Prebendary Trollope entered upon the duties of expositor, which he had kindly undertaken at the last moment, and which he discharged throughout the day to the gratification and instruction of the large assembly he addressed. It would be wearisome to repeat here the proceedings of a day still fresh in the memory of those present. It must, therefore, be sufficient to note that Church Langton was next visited and descanted upon; then at Nosely the company not only visited the interesting (once) Collegiate Chapel, but through the courtesy of Sir Arthur and Lady Hazlerigg were invited to inspect the Hall, to see its paintings, and to read many original letters and documents of great interest and value. From thence a short drive brought the party to Keythorpe Hall, where the Society was entertained by Lord and Lady Berners, in a manner combining the profuse hospitality for which the English noble and gentlemen have always been proverbial, and the grace, elegance, and refinement which now happily add such a charm to their entertainments. After showing every appreciation of their noble host's hospitality the travellers again filled the carriages, and the Churches of Tugby, East Norton, and Allexton were visited in succession; then, after many congratulations upon the success and pleasures of the meeting, the party separated, some returning to Kibworth, and some driving direct to Leicester.

The Bi-Monthly Meetings of the Society have been productive of considerable interest, and the exhibition of antiquities well worthy of notice. A record of these has been preserved, and will appear, it is hoped, in a future number of the "Transactions" of the Society.

The Papers read comprise the following:—

Town Crosses, by Mr. R. W. Johnson.
Genealogical Notes upon the family of Tailbois, by the Rev. J. H. Hill.
The Jewry Wall, Leicester, by Mr. Henry Goddard.
On some relics from Little Oxendon, by Mr. Thomas North.
On an ancient Gothic House on Chitterman Hill, by Mr. James Thompson.
On Nosely, by the Rev. J. H. Hill.
On a Penny of Athelstan I. (supposed to be unique), by the Rev. A. Pownall.
On Ragdale Hall, by Mr. James Thompson.

Several architectural designs and working drawings have been submitted to the Society at these meetings, upon which the Committee have had great pleasure in expressing opinions, and making suggestions.

One of the primary objects of this Society being to preserve all ancient architectural remains within the county which the Committee may consider of value and importance, they have exerted their influence during the past year to preserve two memorials in Leicester, of widely different dates, and suggestive of far different associations,—the *Jewry Wall*, which, whether it be a portion of the ancient wall of the town (as some of our members suggest), or not, at least reminds us of the connection of our borough with a once powerful race, and their world-wide empire: and the *Hospital of William Wigston*, which recalls the pious deeds of an inhabitant of Leicester, whose memory will long be cherished as one of its greatest benefactors. With regard to the first of these—the Jewry Wall—it has been found that, owing to the removal of a large portion of the wall on a line with the present road passing by it, there is an overwhelming mass of masonry in the upper part, which has no adequate support, and which, in the opinion of an experienced Architect, who has carefully examined it, may at any time fall, and the whole wall be reduced to a mass of ruins. Excavations made some time ago by the Council of the Literary and Philosophical Society, instituted in order to ascertain whether there were traces of a continuation of the piers of the wall in the direction of St. Nicholas' Church, revealed the extent and nature of a portion of the structure now buried, and of the foundation; and in that way the proportions of the façade were exhibited in all their completeness. Under these circumstances, the committee of this Society came to the conclusion that it was desirable to take measures to prevent the fabric from falling, permanently to remove the earth in front of it down to the original level of the Roman way, and to protect it from injury by raising before it a low wall, surmounted with iron palisades, through which the entire front would be seen, from the uncovered bases of the piers to the tops of the arches. The consent of the Vicar of St. Nicholas' parish, and that of the Highway and Sewerage Committee of the Town Council of Leicester, has been obtained by the Society for these works, which it is estimated will involve an outlay of at least £50. A statement embodying these facts has been circulated amongst those gentlemen likely to feel an interest in the matter; and though the donations have not been sent in so abundantly as could be wished, enough has been already received to warrant a commencement. Measures are therefore now being taken to erect supports to the upper over-hanging masonry, and the whole scheme will be carried out when the requisite funds are forthcoming.

The circumstances which, in the opinion of the committee, rendered it desirable to take steps towards recommending the preservation of Wigston's Hospital were these: under the new scheme lately issued for the regulation of that charity, the trustees are empowered to erect a new hospital on a new site; and with regard to the present building, they are compelled to adopt one of two courses, either to adapt it for the purpose of a school, or to destroy it, and erect new school buildings upon its site. As the present building is an interesting memorial of the founder of the charity, the Society felt that it would be undesirable to destroy it, if it could be preserved and used for the purposes of a school, without sacrificing any of the requirements and comforts necessary in such an establishment. To test that, carefully prepared drawings were made by Messrs. Goddard and Son, Architects, from which it appeared that the present building, merely by the removal of the inmates' rooms which are erected within the main building, and are entirely independent of the roof, would form a fine hall well adapted for school purposes. This hall—not including the chapel, and the kitchens now separated from the former by a partition—would be sixty-eight feet four inches in length, by twenty-two feet in width, and would accommodate about two hundred and fifty children; but an additional twenty-two feet in length could be obtained by the removal of the partition just alluded to, and the hall would then accommodate about three hundred and thirty children. The present roof is an open timber one, entirely constructed of oak, in very fair preservation, and is architecturally of good design and execution. This arrangement would not interfere with the chapel, which it is suggested should be preserved, and separated from the school-hall by the restoration of the screen which formerly existed, but which has been destroyed, only a few traces being now in existence. The re-erection of this screen, and the restoration of the end window, with the opening of the side windows, would complete all that were necessary in

the chapel. The exterior walls of the building would require to be cleared of the plaster and to be pointed. It is further suggested that the highly picturesque timber and plaster building running at right angles with the main edifice, and now used as larders and store rooms, should be converted into play rooms for the scholars in wet weather, which could readily be effected by the removal of the partitions which now divide the building into separate compartments.

The result of this examination of the Hospital, and the report upon it, was the adoption of a memorial to the Trustees of the Charity, suggesting the desirability of preserving the fabric of the present Hospital, and showing from drawings, and the above facts and calculations, that it could easily be converted into an eligible building for the proposed school. This memorial was favourably received by the trustees; and now that steps are being taken preparatory to the erection of a new Hospital, the Committee of this Society trust the prayer of their memorial will not be overlooked.

It now only remains to remark upon the prospects of the Society; and this is the most difficult task proposed in this address, inasmuch as so many contingencies may arise to mar its success, or to strengthen its position. We may, however, hope that with its increased number of members, and consequently increased income, its usefulness will be extended, an impetus given to historical and antiquarian studies, and a juster appreciation of the glorious architectural remains of former times existing in this country be fostered, which will exert its influence not only in the erection of new ecclesiastical and civic buildings, but more especially in the preservation of old ones; for to the eye of the ecclesiastical antiquary the time is not far distant, if it has not even now arrived, when the so-called restoration of a parish church—so full of reminiscences of the past—will be viewed with as much dread, as its neglect in bygone times has called forth our reprobation and censure. The brightness of the prospects of the Society, however, as to its future, depends not only upon the length of its member-roll, and the strength of its finances, encouraging and necessary as both those may be, no, nor even upon the energy and activity of its officers and Committee, though the importance of that cannot well be overrated, but it depends especially upon the hearty co-operation of its subscribing and honorary members. This Society should be the centre for the county of all things that can aid in forwarding the objects, and in advancing the studies for the encouragement of which it was formed. Its bi-monthly meetings should be the opportunities used for communicating topographical, historical, and antiquarian information from the various parishes in the county: for the exhibition, decyphering, and, if necessary, collation of ancient manuscripts: for the exhibition also of articles illustrative of the Fine Arts in past times: of the ritual and ceremonies of the Church in mediæval or earlier times: and of the domestic and public lives of our ancestors. Every fragment found in excavations should be religiously preserved and sent, or better still, brought for inspection, and (if possible) for elucidation. And as the meetings of the Society should be—and are to some extent—the opportunities for the exhibition of these, and for a discussion upon their use and value, so the transactions of the Society would become a register of their existence, and of the time, circumstances, and locality of their discovery, which would be no mean assistance to future students, and also to the future historian of Leicestershire. Who so able to give much valuable information respecting their various parishes as the clergy, who have free and leisurely access to all parish documents, church registers, and other records, with, at the same time, the scholarly attainments necessary for a due appreciation of their value and interests? The noblemen and country gentlemen, too, from the frequently long connection of their families, generation after generation, with the same locality, and from their possessing family papers inaccessible to previous historians, can aid much in elucidating the past history of the country, and especially of those sections of it with which they are more intimately connected.

It may fairly be hoped that the future annual summer meetings and excursions of the Society will be as successful and replete with interest as those already within the experience of the members; and the exhibitions of antiquities in neighbourhoods not yet visited, will—as the Society becomes every year better known and understood—probably be large, diverse in character, and consequently possess a high interest and value. It has always been a pleasure to observe the interest taken in the temporary museums by the poorer portion of the population. They bring their single cherished articles for exhibition with great readiness and pleasure, and these evidently acquire an additional value in their estimation when they find that others

beside themselves derive pleasure and profit from their inspection. Thus it is hoped a spirit of conservation is encouraged which will assist in the preservation of articles and records, which every year become of greater value as illustrative of the arts and manufactures of former times, and of the history of the particular localities and subjects of which they treat, or to which they relate.

It has been the custom in past years to refer in the Annual Report to the various works of church building and restoration effected in the county during the previous year, and as the extent of such works, and the way in which they are carried out, may fairly represent in some degree the progress of the principles advocated by this Society, a few notes are appended to this Report.

Loughborough Church. The restoration of this fine edifice under the care of Mr. G. G. Scott, to which reference was made in the last Report as being then finished with the exception of the tower, has been completed through the munificence of Mr. W. Perry-Herrick and Miss Herrick. The tower has been partly recased, and the pinnacles and battlements in great part rebuilt. The large western perpendicular tower window has been filled with stained glass, representing in its fifteen compartments some of the principal persons mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, the effect being rich and pleasing. It need scarcely be said that under Mr. Scott, care has been taken to avoid needless destruction; the interesting series of armorial bearings surrounding the west window externally, are, with one exception—the topmost—untouched. The mullions of this window and the belfry doorway beneath it have been to a great extent renewed, and the spandrils of that doorway, representing the cognizance of the Merchants of the Staple, and the arms of Burton, have been carefully restored.

Emmanuel Church, Loughborough.—On Advent Sunday last the three-tiered structure for clerk, minister, and preacher, which almost entirely blocked up the eastern end of the nave of this church, causing the officiating clergyman to turn his back to the altar, and shutting out the chancel from the church, had been removed, and its place supplied by a pulpit, prayer desk, and lectern of carved oak, of perpendicular design, placed in their proper positions. The three were designed and executed by Mr. Barfield, of the Welford Road, Leicester.

Kibworth Church.—The restoration of this church, under the care of Mr. Slater, was nearly completed when it was inspected by the Society at the annual summer meeting in August last. It is, therefore, unnecessary to say more here than that the ancient font, which had been, during the Commonwealth, turned out of the church and sacrilegiously converted into a horse-trough, and which the present rector and Mr. Slater discovered buried in an adjoining field, has been restored to its proper position in the church, and will from henceforth be one of the most interesting reminiscences of those troublous times preserved within the parish. It must always be a matter of regret that the stairs leading to the roodloft in this church should have been carelessly destroyed during the late works. Such like landmarks in the history of the church should always, when not absolutely in the way, be preserved; and the desire for neatness and straight lines should give way before the claims of preservation set up by those marks of antiquity, and even by those vestiges of a ritual, now happily abrogated, which are often so ruthlessly destroyed without the sanction of the better informed architect, and even sometimes in spite of his remonstrances. Mr. Slater's valuable paper upon this church, accompanied with illustrations, will appear in the next volume of the Associated Societies.

Wigston Magna Church. Great improvements have been effected here by Mr. Kirk, architect, Sleaford, by the removal of the galleries and opening the tower arch, by thoroughly cleansing and restoring the stonework at the western end of the church, and by reseating a portion of the edifice with open seats, the end panels and fronts of which are ornamented with the linen pattern. The old oak panels of the pews being in too good a condition, and of too valuable material to be thrown away, have been carved in the pattern last mentioned, and adapted to the open seats. In doing this, the chief difficulty of the restoration, so far as it has now proceeded, consisted.

Hinckley Church. Very considerable restorations have been carried out in Hinckley Church during the past year, which are well worthy of the careful notice of the Society; but as it is proposed to hold a meeting there during the ensuing

summer, it is not desirable or necessary to give an account here of that which every member can then inspect for himself.

Stonton Wyville Church. The Chancel of Stonton Wyville Church has been restored by Messrs. Goddard and Son, architects, Leicester, at the cost of the Rev. T. Burnaby. The debased roof and ceiling have been replaced by a king-post roof in character with the building it covers. The original eastern window had many years ago given place to a square opening fitted with a wooden frame: this has been removed, and an early pointed three-light window inserted, and the centre light filled with stained glass, representing the Crucifixion, and the patron saint of the church. The original window on the south side has also been filled with stained glass, and the stonework in the opposite window carefully cleansed and reglazed. The chancel floor has been effectively paved with Whetstone's tiles, and the new altar rails are of good design. This church would be much improved if the west window were reglazed, and in the place of the questionable light in the northern entrance, a new three-light window were inserted similar to the one near the pulpit.

Cranoe Church. In the parish church of Cranoe have been inserted four painted glass windows, the entire work of a young artist, Mr. F. R. Hill; and a very handsome corona, the gift of the rector, by Messrs. Hart and Co., has been placed in the chancel. It is much to be lamented that this good specimen of the early portion of the perpendicular architectural period has given unmistakeable sign of premature decay. Four years ago several fissures appeared in the masonry, and the building has now made a second and considerable "settlement." Every effort will be made during the coming spring to put a stop to this misfortune. The church is on the brow of a steep hill, immediately under which winds the public road, and this is, perhaps, the cause of the settlement.

Shangton Church. The chancel of this church has been undergoing necessary repairs, which have been judiciously done. A new pulpit and a new reading desk have been placed in the church.

In addition to these, many minor works have been completed, or are now in the architect's hands: as at S. Margaret's Church, Leicester; S. Mary's Church, Leicester: Wymondham Church, &c., &c.; whilst at Misterton Church, near Lutterworth, very considerable repairs and restorations have been completed. The fine church there, which was visited by the Society in the summer of 1861, was for some time in the hands of Mr. Wm. Smith, architect, New Adelphi Chambers, London, and was reopened for divine service on Christmas Day last. Mr. Smith having kindly sent an account of the work done, with some explanatory drawings, he shall speak for himself in a short paper which will be read in this place this morning. The works were well executed by Mr. Law, of Lutterworth, to the architect's entire satisfaction.

Mural Decorations. The use of Mural Decorations in our churches is gradually progressing. The Committee can refer with pleasure to further stencilling and writing in that of Market Harborough during the past year. The spandrils of the nave arches are decorated with an easy flowing linked pattern; and various texts of Scripture, divided by bands of geometrical and symbolical stencilling, have been executed by Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth, with his usual good taste. The lettering is remarkably good. Care must be taken in wall decoration of this kind—texts of Scripture within straight lines, with parallel bands of geometrical design between —to avoid a redundance of horizontal lines, which ill accords with the spirit of Gothic architecture.

The chancel of the parish church of Humberstone has also received a further addition to its decorations by the introduction of the Decalogue upon its eastern wall on each side of the window. The Commandments are written with illuminated capitals upon a vellum coloured ground, enclosed within richly coloured borders, which are figured with the rose and lily alternately, and which assume the niche shape. The remaining portion of the eastern wall, in a line with the window sill, is coloured blue, powdered with stars, the propriety of which ornamentation—notwithstanding many precedents—as a mural decoration may be questioned, it being from its nature better adapted for a roof than a wall. The reredos, too, has been richly coloured, golden fleur-de-lis and crosses, divided by pellets of blue being placed upon a Spanish brown or chocolate coloured ground, and the whole enclosed in an extremely rich border of considerable width. The ground of the border is gold, and the pattern upon it is an adaptation of the convolvolus leaf conventionally arranged.

At the angles appear crosses studded in imitation of precious stones. The reredos, which in general design follows the style of illumination prevalent in the manuscripts of the eleventh century, is the most successful part of these effective mural decorations, which, together with the texts round the nave arches, and in other parts of the church, have been executed by Mr. Fred. Winks, of Leicester, at the sole cost, so far as relates to the chancel, of a member of this Society, Mr. W. A. Kendall, of Humberstone, who upon former occasions has shown by his liberality that he recognises the claims of the chancels of our churches upon their lay impropriators.

New Schools.—Several new Schools have been erected during the year 1863, amongst which may be mentioned one at Kirkby Mallory, at the sole cost of the Earl of Lovelace, the owner of the soil. It is a commodious building, displaying much good taste, from designs by Mr. G. Watson. Both as to site and plan it is good. There are school and class rooms, with teacher's residence attached. Another school of considerable merit as to design and execution has been erected at the cost of W. A. Pochin, Esq., at Edmonthorpe, from the designs of Mr. R. W. Johnson, Melton Mowbray. The extremely chaste and beautiful Gothic schools at West Cotes, Leicester, have been opened lately, and reflect as much credit upon Messrs. Goddard and Son, the architects, by their internal arrangements, ventilation, &c., as they do by their pleasing exterior.

Proposed Works. In addition to the works already commenced in the county, many churches are proposed to be restored so soon as funds can be raised, and for many of these the plans and specifications are already made out. Somerby, North Kilworth, Claybrooke, Hoby, and others might be mentioned, but the most important of these is Melton Mowbray. An urgent appeal has been issued to all connected with that town for funds to aid in the restoration of its magnificent church. The fabric has been examined by two of the most eminent architects in England, who, in their written reports upon the state of the building, give as their decided and independent opinions that the roofs of nave, aisles, and transepts are in a dilapidated and dangerous state, and require immediate care and reparation. This church is well known to most of the members of this Society, and has been well described in its publications. Its symmetrical proportions and perfection of outline, the extreme beauty of its details, in which fine specimens of the three pointed styles of Gothic architecture are found, its large size (with its double aisled and clerestoried transepts) which invests it with a grandeur seldom found in a parish church, renders it not only the finest church in the county, but one of the finest among the many magnificent parochial churches in the country. With such a church to repair, under the peculiar circumstances in which the living of Melton is now placed, the minister and churchwardens have resolved not to commence the works or incur the responsibility of so large an undertaking until their subscription list amounts to £4000. Towards this sum the Committee have received promises of £1700, and make their appeal especially to the nobility and gentry attracted to Melton during the winter season, to aid them in their noble but arduous undertaking.

Street Architecture. In consequence of the increasing commerce of Leicester through the introduction into it of various new branches of industry, and of the almost unexampled prosperity of the trade during the past year, many new buildings necessitated by this expansion have been erected since the last Report of this Society was presented to you.

The most conspicuous and important of these are the new warehouses, now nearly completed, for Mr. Charles Noon, on the London Road, and for Messrs. Hodges and Sons, on the Welford Road, and new offices erecting by the Leicester Gas Company, in Millstone Lane. All these appear well adapted for their purposes. Comparing the two warehouses architecturally, that of Messrs. Hodges and Sons appears the bolder in effect, and shows more originality in design. The new office in Millstone Lane, necessarily of a very different character to these, will, when completed, be one of the best modern erections of its kind in Leicester. The value of the ground probably prevented a greater break in the façade, and the execution of the ornamental stonework appears scarcely equal in merit to the design. The judicious and sparing use of coloured tiles inserted in the front has a pleasing effect. The whole building, which is Gothic in character, with some nineteenth century features, is an ornament to the neighbourhood in which it stands. Mr. Wm. Jackson, architect, Leicester, has been employed to add some additional rooms to the Magazine, at the Newarke, Leicester, which he has done in a most satisfactory way, preserving in the new work

the character and stability of old. Mr. Jackson is also the architect of the picturesque and commodious cottages now erecting for the Militia Staff on two sides of the parade ground in the Newarke. Whatever opinions may be formed as to the taste displayed in these erections, it is evident that one of the first things contended for by this and kindred Societies has been gained: stucco and similar shams are now the exception, brick, with stone dressings, is the prevailing material honestly shown in the fronts of our factories, warehouses, and public offices. It is not, however, the use of uncovered brick only as a wall material which has been urged more than once at the public meetings of this Society; but the use of moulded bricks for the jambs and arches of windows and doors, for ornamental string courses, chimneys, and other details in buildings, where the use of stone from any cause is not practicable, has also been strongly recommended. There are several buildings in Leicester where such moulded bricks have been used with various degrees of success. It should, nevertheless, be remembered that stone, especially when it is the natural production of the neighbourhood, is always the noblest and best for all buildings, especially for their dressings; and it is only in cases where non-production, cost, inapplicability, or other good reasons intervene, that brick should be substituted in its place: when, however, it is so substituted, let it be brick to the eye, of the best quality as to make, bake, and colour, that can be procured.

The probability of a new Town Hall being erected in Leicester, in which to transact the business of the Borough, has necessarily been brought before the notice of all members of this Society, by the publicity given in the local papers to the discussions upon the subject, in the Council Chamber and elsewhere. Without venturing to give an opinion as to the proper time for the erection of so desirable a building, the necessity for which is evident, the Committee would strongly urge upon the Corporation of Leicester the desirability and importance of raising an edifice worthy of the many historical associations of their ancient town, and of its present importance and commercial wealth: an edifice that will do credit to the increasingly correct architectural taste of the times in which it will be erected; for it should be remembered that a building, partaking as that will of a "Monumental" character, will be either a lasting testimony to the good taste and liberality of the generation erecting it, or a standing blot which cannot, at least, for very, very many years, be obliterated. There is one detail in the arrangement of the future Town Hall of Leicester, which it may not be out of place thus early to suggest. The interest and importance of the public archives of the Borough are well known, and their value fully appreciated by all local antiquaries. At present, notwithstanding the efforts made some years ago by Messrs. Kelly and Thompson, these documents are much scattered; and even those collected in the so-called Muniment Room at the Guild-hall are in great jeopardy from the effects of damp, which it is next to impossible to drive from the room in which they are placed. There are still many documents which have not yet been examined and arranged, and which would probably throw additional light upon the history of the Borough. The Committee therefore trust that in the future Town Hall of Leicester a room properly arranged and ventilated will be set aside for their reception; and the appointment of an honorary keeper of the Town Records would, in their opinion, tend much to their proper arrangement and preservation.

Resolved, that the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Report of the Committee be adopted and printed, as usual, with the best thanks of the Society to Mr. North for the compilation of the latter.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Lanesborough was elected a President of the Society. The Members of the Committee for the past year, the Rev. C. W. Belgrave, Rector of North Kilworth, and the Rev. W. D. Moore, Vicar of Evington, were elected to form the Committee for the current year. The Officers for the past year were re-elected.

Several appropriate votes of thanks were passed.

The following gentlemen were elected MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY:—The Rev. John Bacon, M.A., Rector of Wymondham; the Rev. T. C. Peake, M.A., Rector of Hallaton; Mr Wm. Smith, Architect, London; Mr. Wm. Millican, Architect, Leicester; Mr. Wm. Sheild, Uppingham; Mr. Henry Heycock, Norton Grange.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON reported the progress making in the protection of the Jewry Wall, Leicester; and the Secretary announced several donations towards the expenses incurred.

CHARLES HOLTE BRACEBRIDGE, Esq., Atherstone Hall, attended the meeting as the representative of the Local Committee formed at Stratford-on-Avon, for the purpose of celebrating the tercentenary of the birth of Shakespeare. Mr. Bracebridge said it was proposed to celebrate the three hundredth birthday of Shakespeare, in that town—the town in which he was born, and in which he died—in April next, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and it was proposed that the result of the celebration should be threefold: *first*, the purchase of a large garden connected with Shakespeare's house; *secondly*, the establishment of one or more Scholarships to the English Universities, open to the competition of those who may receive their education at the same school at which Shakespeare received his, viz., the Free Grammar School founded by Edward VI.; and *thirdly*, the erection of a monumental memorial, of some kind at present not decided upon, at Stratford-on-Avon. The proceedings during the celebration will be of a varied character: excursions to places in the neighbourhood of Stratford, illustrative of incidents in Shakespeare's life; grand oratorio and concert; the performance of one of Shakespeare's comedies and of one of his tragedies; a Shakespearean fancy ball, &c. To obtain the desired ends, money is necessary, and Mr. Bracebridge's object in coming to Leicester was to lay these circumstances before this and other Institutions, in the hope that a fund would be raised in Leicester, in small sums, and to enlist the sympathy of people of all classes in the movement.

After remarks from various members, the following resolution was passed:

"That, in the opinion of the Committee, the Tercentenary Celebration of Shakespeare's birth-day should be held at his birthplace, Stratford-on-Avon; and that this Committee recommends the proposal of the Local Committee to the favourable consideration of the Members of this Society, the Honorary Secretaries undertaking to receive any subscriptions to promote the object."

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:

By the REV. J. H. HILL, several Roman coins, including a small silver one of Arcadius, lately found in digging on the Roman road, near Medbourne.

By Mr. John Hunt, a small pierced silver spoon; Hall mark not decipherable.

By Major Costobadie, through Captain Whitby, a finely carved circular horn tobacco box, once the property of General Mountcalm, and taken out of his pocket by an English seaman when the General was shot on the plains of Abraham, 13th September, 1759; a Newark siege piece of Charles I. in beautiful preservation, lozenge-shaped, on the obverse a crown, with the letters "C. R." one on each side, and underneath "xii." to denote its value, on the reverse the letters "OBS." *(obsidium)* "NEWARKE, 1645;" a mother-of-pearl snuff box, silver mounted, in the lid of which is inserted a silver medal commemorative of the battle of Blenheim, bearing on the obverse the profile of Queen Ann, and on the reverse a group representing Britannia, bearing a small "victory" on her hand, and at her feet a captive, with trophies of war; a remarkably fine Genoese gold coin, and a sapphire gold ring of considerable value. These two family relics were brought over to England in the year 1686, by John Costobadie. He was a minister of the Protestant religion at Argentat, en Auvergne, in France; but soon after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, by Louis XIV., in 1685, he (in common with a vast number of his Protestant fellow subjects) fled from his country, and reached England, bringing with him the title-deeds to his patrimonial estates, and the coin and ring mentioned above. These two relics he enjoined should never be parted with but under great necessity; they should serve as memorials of the goodness of Providence, in protecting his posterity and blessing them with a competency. They are now preserved with great care by Major Costobadie, his lineal descendant. The coin or medal has the following inscriptions:

Ob.: "DVX ET GVBERNATORES. REIP. GEN."
Re.: "ET. REGE. EOS. 1641. G. Ses."

By Mr. John Phillips, of Kibworth, a satirical print of the time of the Civil Wars; a pectoral cross, about two inches long, double transomed, usually called a Cross Patriarchal: on one side was a figure of our Saviour extended on the cross, with the words "SALVATOR MUNDI," on the other a figure of the Blessed Virgin, with arms elevated, and the inscription "MATER DEI ORA PRO" [*nobis*]; a medal struck in honour of Clementina, daughter of Prince James Sobieski, and wife of the Pretender. It was dated 1719, the year of their marriage.

By Wm. Smith, Esq., Architect, London: The ground plan, working drawings, and details of Gilmorton Church, in this county. This church is entirely new, with the exception of the tower and spire. The old church consisted of nave, north aisle, chancel, and tower, and was in a most wretched condition, with scarcely any

architectural feature left. The arcade between aisle and nave was the only part containing anything of interest, and the architect has preserved its proportions in the new church. The cost of re-erection was about £2000. raised by subscriptions, chiefly through the exertions of the Rector, the Rev. J. M. Lakin, a member of this Society.

Also by Wm. Smith, Esq., a similar set of drawings, shewing the work lately done under his care, at Misterton Church, as mentioned in the Annual Report. Mr. Smith also contributed the following notes upon

MISTERTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

Misterton (anciently called Minsterton, or Minestone), is situated about a mile on the south-east of the town of Lutterworth.

The parish includes the lordships of Poultney and Walcote, the greater number of the inhabitants residing at the latter place, a short distance from the parish church.

An ancient roll, called the Matriculus of 1220, mentions a chapel both in the precincts of Poultney and Walcote. I find also that Adam Neale de Clipston, of Poultney (1308), is said to have had, in right of his wife, (Maud, daughter of John de Napton, county of Warwick,) the advowson of the two chapels of Walcote and Poultney, belonging to the mother church at Misterton. There is now, however, I believe, not a vestige of either of these chapels remaining. The original mother church too has disappeared.

The present church at Misterton (dedicated to St. Leonard), consists of a nave, with arcades of four arches, north and south aisles, chancel, a western tower with a good broached spire, and a south parvise porch.

The principal part (viz. the nave, and aisles, and tower,) appears to have been erected about the year 1335. The chancel and south porch are of a much later date.

The windows of the south aisle and the west window of the north aisle are good specimens of the second pointed work. An altar was undoubtedly placed at the east end of the south aisle when the church was rebuilt. The piscina still remains, and the internal cill of the south window was carried down to form a seat.

The east window of the north aisle is considerably larger than any other in the church, and is of a little later date than the work just described. Probably very soon after the church was completed it was determined to form another chapel in this north aisle, and to give it more importance the original window was removed, and the present large one substituted. Evidently there was an altar here, as the cill of the window is carried down with a sort of panel

to form a simple reredos, and the internal cill of the side window is made into a seat, as on the south side.

I have been unable to find out the dedication of these altars.

The next change was to remove the high pitched roof from the nave and add the clerestory, the south porch probably being built at the same time. Later still the chancel was rebuilt, probably about the date 1500.

Prior to the restoration just completed (at a cost of more than £2000. principally provided by the munificence of the Rector), the state of the church was this:—Internally, the seats were a mixture of high pews and old open benches; the latter were of the most solid description, with carved ends, very rude in workmanship, but rich in character. Between the first and second arches in the south side were fragments of a good parclose screen, and also on the north side; in one arch was a portion of another screen totally different in design. There was also a portion of the lower part of the old rood screen remaining, and a few other tracery panels scattered in different parts of the church.

I regret that a great part of these old fragments were found to be in such a decayed and dilapidated state that it was impossible to refix them. I have, however, retained a portion of the old rood screen, and refixed it against the side wall of the tower, where it can still be examined, and as many of the old seat ends and tracery panels as were at all fit to be reused have been refixed in the church.

The whole of the new seating is executed in oak in the same solid manner as the original, with carved ends and panelled fronts of a variety of patterns.

The whole of the roofs were of the poorest description, and, with the exception of that on the chancel, were also in a very decayed state. They have all been taken off and replaced by new ones of a more consistent character with the rest of the work.

On the removal of the plastering, the internal part of the wall of the south aisle was found to be in a most defective state, whilst the external facing, being built of ashlar stone, was quite sound. The experiment of taking down and rebuilding the inner half of the wall without disturbing the outer, was attempted and successfully effected. The chancel arch, too, and part of the wall of the north aisle, had to be taken down and rebuilt.

The paving was a wretched mixture of nine-inch tiles, bricks, and stone. This has been replaced by a pavement of Minton's best tiles, and Wingerworth stone laid in patterns. Encaustic tiles being used freely in the chancel, and alabaster within the altar rails.

A high screen has been fixed in the tower arch, and the new south door in porch has carving and tracery panels in the head, with drapery panels beneath.

The font has been restored and a new cover is provided, having an ornamental top of brass and iron, manufactured by Hardman, from my design.

A new organ is placed in the north aisle, and to make the work complete, a hot water apparatus has been provided.

The old Pulteney tombs, formerly in the chancel and south aisle, are now placed, one on either side of the chancel.

The fact of these tombs existing in the church has induced me to examine the earlier history of the family, thinking that possibly some record might be found of their having rebuilt the church; and I have now little doubt that the nave, aisles, tower and spire, were erected by Sir John de Pulteney, who died in 1349.

It appears that the Adam Neale de Clipston (afterwards de Poultney, before mentioned) had three daughters, and one son, John. This son "was not contented to grovel on in Poultney, the place of his birth, but rather choose to use his best endeavours for reputation and advancement in a larger sphere." He went to London, to the business of a draper, heretofore a very lucrative occupation, as large quantities of woollen cloth were then exported; "and that ardour which inspired him with a thirst after great things met with a suitable reward."

The first account I find of his having acquired property is, that he obtained possession of the manors of Penshurst and Yenesfelde, in Kent.

In 1330 he is described as "Sir John de Pulteney, Knight, Citizen, Draper, Lord Maior of London."

He was also Lord Mayor in 1331, 1333, 1336.

"This great man (for so he may be called, if real merit added to dignity and riches, hath any claim to that title,) having raised himself to a great degree of both wealth and honour, in which his natural genius was his indefatigable assistant, became highly favoured by King Edward III."

1331. "'*Rex persolvit Johanni de Pultney, civi London*' £400. *ei debit' per Edwardum, nuper comitem Kanciæ.*' This monarch having deputed three persons to enquire into the damages done by sea between his subjects and the men of Flanders, so far confided in the abilities of Sir John de Pulteney, that he authorized him to commission any or either of them to go to Bruges on that account; and in the ninth year of this King (1332), several ships and armed men assembling together, in order to commit hostilities, Sir John de Pulteney, with Reginald de Conduit, were commissioned to oppose them, as men in whose loyalty the King had entire confidence; and, in the same year, on the 26th August, when the Scots and their confederates were preparing to invade the kingdom, and the force of men and ships ordered for their repulse not being duly regarded, under pretence of want of money, the King repeated his command for equipping such force, and,

that such an important service might be the better performed, he constituted this great and faithful man supervisor of the whole affair."

1334. Sir J. de Pulteney purchased Cold Harbrough, or Harbour, Thames Street. He is also said to have "builded the Church of All Hallows the Less; the steeple and quire of this church stand on an arched gateway, being the entrance to a great House called Cold Harbrough."

1335. Sir John de Pulteney obtained the whole Manor of *Misterton*, and one mediety of the Rectory.

1340. Adam, son of Sir Robert de Napton, Knight, granted the reversion of divers messuages and lands at *Misterton* and *Poultney* to Sir John de Pultney.

1344. Thomas Owen (a nephew of Sir John de Pulteney) released to Sir John all *his* right and title to the Manor of *Misterton*, with a moiety also of the advowson of the church.

1345. John (son of Hugo Neale, uncle of Sir John de Pulteney) Lord of Norton, released *his* claim on certain lands and tenements in Pultney and Dadlynton, and also of lands at Welford, in Northamptonshire.

Besides this property at Misterton, Sir John had also (as before mentioned) the Manor of Penshurst and Yenesfelde, in Kent, "The advowson of the adjoining Parish of Lyghe, South wood, Park wood, Orbiston wood, Heversmede, Corton's lands, lands in Lyghe-Tappenash, and others in the County of Kent. He had also a mansion at Cheule, in Cambridgeshire, and his great Town House, Cold Harbrough, in Thames Street, called also from his occupancy, in the style of the times, Poulteney Inn. Here he not only lived magnificently, but shone in a superior lustre by the exercise of his wisdom, piety, and great ability.

"However, he was not so good a man in his own opinion as in that of all other men; for we find him the founder of a Chantry Chapel in honour of the Holy Cross, adjoining to the Church of S. Lawrence, in Candlewich Street, for seven priests to perform divine service there for the expiation of his own sins: and the King himself, on the 26th July, 1333, wrote to the Pope, at the request of Sir John, that this chapel might be appropriated to the Abbot and Convent of Westminster. He also founded the Collegiate Church of S. Lawrence, in the same street, making it a College of Jesus and Corpus Christi, for a master and seven chaplains (whence it gained the name of Lawrence Pulteney, and was surrendered in the reign of Edward VI., valued at £79. 17s. 11d). By his will, dated November 14, 1349, he orders his own sepulture therein, and further directs his executors to build a chapel in the Church of S. Paul, London (which he desires to honour with filial affection), for three priests to perform divine service; one of whom was, every day, to say the Mass of the Blessed

Virgin, for the benefit of his soul, and the other two to say the office of the dead for his own, his ancestors', and all Christian souls, and further, he enjoins the said priests to say in their masses one special collect, with mention of his name. To these monuments of public spirit and benevolence we must add, the gift of the perpetual patronage of Napton, County of Warwick, to his Collegiate Church of S. Lawrence, and in 1342 he founded the monastery of White Friars, in Coventry; and when Sir William Dugdale wrote, his arms were then extant over the gate of that house."

To the recital of all these "acts of benevolence," I think may with tolerable certainty be added, that he rebuilt the parish Church at Misterton. It is true I cannot find any mention of the fact; but the architecture shews that the nave and aisles, with the tower and spire, were erected in the period in which he lived. His wealth, his piety and benevolence, and his immediate connection with the parish, both by birth and by property, are incidents which raise such a conjecture almost to the point of certainty.

He died in 1349, leaving one son, who died without issue.

WYMONDHAM CHURCH.

The following interesting notes upon Wymondham Church were forwarded to the meeting by a member of the Society:

The members of your Society and all lovers of archæology and architecture will like to hear of our doings in the parish of Wymondham. The church, from its antiquity and beauty, is well worthy of their regard. It consists of tower with spire, nave, north and south aisles, north and south transepts, chancel, and porch. The tower, which is of ample dimensions, and good proportions, has its lower stories of transition from Norman to Early English. The next window on the ground floor is a single light with pointed head externally, but with a semicircular head and semicircular relieving arch to the inner splay, which, from the great thickness of the wall and its good proportions, is (or would be if restored) very effective. The south window has externally a semicircular dripstone. The tower arch is pointed, but supported on round shafts with capitals, which have a smack of the Norman. The second floor has a two-light window, with head pierced in quartrefoil. The third story is Perpendicular style, of good freestone masonry, and is surmounted by an elegant lighted spire, of the same date and workmanship. The most interesting internal features of this part of the church were unknown to most of the inhabitants, owing to a singing loft and brick wall, which quite hid the arch, and also blocked up two of the arches in the nave. A recent unanimous vote in the Vestry accepted a private offer to take down this loft, and seat the floor of the tower, for greater accommodation. The arch was found

magnificent in proportions, but ruthlessly mutilated in all its members by the erectors of the loft, who had even destroyed many of the construction stones of the arch, and thus endangered the tower. A doorway was discovered a little on the north side of the point of the arch, formerly leading to the first floor of the tower. This I imagine communicated, as in some instances which I know, with an external winding staircase, on the north-east angle of the tower, by means of a short passage open to the nave. It was probably stopped when a winding staircase was cut out of the lower wall of the tower, and made partially to project internally, with an interior doorway of the Perpendicular period, thus adding a feature of some interest, but I fear not adding to the strength of the tower.

The nave has three arches on either side, of very interesting Early English work, probably late in that period, as one capital has the ball flower rudely executed. Some of the capitals and some carved heads are very curious. The doorway to the rood-loft still remains on the north of the chancel arch. The clerestory is a very elegant one of the Perpendicular period, with four well-proportioned windows on either side. In the chancel, which is of fine proportions, are simple but good sediliæ and piscinæ, of Early English. Most of the windows of the Church are Perpendicular, and in fair order. The north and south transepts have both been chapels. In one there is evidently an aumbry or locker stopped up; in the other a piscina. In the south transept is a table monument, and a stone figure of a crusader, whom the people call Hamilton.

The east chancel window is the only one which has undergone much alteration. It is remembered to have been square-headed, of five lights, with stone mullions. A former Rector, Mr. Cragg, who was very interested in the Church, added a pointed head; but unfortunately the design was by a tradesman of the village, who, though a very ingenious man, had no knowledge of the principles of Gothic architecture. Mr. Cragg was also for many years the master of the Grammar School, and his pupils, stimulated by the proposed restoration of the west end of the church, have conceived the laudable intention of placing good stained glass in the said east window, to his memory. Dr. Day, once his pupil, has contributed the munificent sum of £50. It is to be hoped that enough may be realized from some quarter to rectify the stonework of the tracery also. No money will be raised from the parish, by rate or otherwise, for the proposed restoration of the west end of the church, and it will be a thousand pities if the good work commenced should be imperfectly or shabbily executed for lack of funds. The Archdeacon has kindly offered to preach at the opening of a new organ, about Easter, and I cannot but think, that if the lovers of Church Architecture and

antiquity, within any reasonable distance, knew the many points of interest which they would find here, they would seize the opportunity of surveying them, and of rendering the assistance so much required.

28*th March*, 1864.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Society: the Rev. J. Mayor, Cossington; the Rev. F. L. Cursham, Vicar of Horninghold; and the Rev. T. O. Hall, of Great Easton.

The following plans, &c., were exhibited:—

By Mr. R. W. Johnson, Architect, Melton Mowbray, a perspective view and ground plan of a new School, lately erected at Edmondthorpe, as mentioned in the Report for 1863, at a cost of about £700., by W. A. Pochin, Esq. The schoolroom is 40 feet by 18 feet; the classroom attached, 18 feet by 14 feet; and there are separate lobbies and lavatories for boys and girls. The building is of native stone ashlar, from Mr. Pochin's quarry, with Clipsham stone dressings. The general design is Gothic, the roof an open one, well pitched, with a stone bell turret on the western gable. The plans were approved by the Committee of Council on Education, and the fittings of the school are in compliance with their requirements.

By Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth, sketches for the painting of doors, &c., at Beddington House, near Croydon, now being decorated under Mr. Lea's supervision; designs for bookcases, &c., for the same house; also sketches for the decoration of doors for a house in this neighbourhood.

By Mr. Frederick Jackson, Architect, Nottingham, a copy of "Collections towards the History of Printing in Nottinghamshire, with an Index of Persons and Subjects," by the Rev. S. F. Creswell, M.A., F.R.G.S., F.R.A.S., &c., &c., which Mr. Jackson presented to the Society.

By The Rev. J. H. Hill, a copy of Record's Arithmetick, 1646.

By Mr. North, several forgeries in lead of Anglo-Saxon antiquities, cleverly executed, sold some time since to a gentleman in Leicester, as genuine antiques found in the Thames.

By Mr. Henry Goddard, two masks of coarse clay, about four inches in height, of very rude workmanship, from ancient tombs in Mexico. They were made for toys or for giving signals, by means of a whistle, which was produced by blowing through an aperture

in the chin of the mask, the air then passing through the mask into its cheeks, which formed air chambers, and from thence escaping through the eyes, produced a shrill and strong whistle; a brass of Vespasian, in good preservation; a small Roman glass bottle, one inch and a half high, probably used for unguents, and a bronze ear pick, both found in excavating in Horsefair Street, Leicester.

By Mr. James Thompson, a silver coin, apparently a foreign one, of the fourteenth century, lately found near Wigston Magna.

By Alfred Whitby, Esq., a very beautiful Malacca cane, silver mounted.

The Rev. Ernest Tower, of Earl's Shilton, communicated to the Society a valuable and interesting Paper upon his parish. Mr. Tower, after explaining the origin of the name, traced the descent of the manor from the original Norman lord, Hugh de Grantesmainell, through the Earls of Leicester to the Earls of Lancaster, and so into the hands of Queen Victoria, as Duchess of Lancaster. He also fully described the state of the parish at the Conquest, as revealed in the dry facts stated in Doomsday Book, and explained the tenure under which this and other lands were then and afterwards held of the King, or of the great Barons of the realm; not neglecting to state how the manor is now rented of the Crown by "the lady in trust," and the very small pecuniary interest the Queen now has in the parish. The antiquities of the parish, its castle mound and parish church, the stocking trade introduced there at an early period, the progress of the place, as evidenced by the church registers, the ravages of the plague, the benefactors of the parish, the old benefit club, with curious instances of its use and abuse, were alluded to, and the paper ended by a short list of the surnames most common in the place, with their probable derivation.

Mr. Tower was much complimented upon his interesting Paper, which not only showed considerable research, but a desire to interest his neighbours, rich and poor, in the history of their parish, which may well be commended to the imitation of other gentlemen in the county.*

30*th May*, 1864.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Society: The Rev. P. Mules, Belvoir Castle; the Rev. C. S. Palmer, Rector of Owston; Mr. Frederick Morley, Leicester.

* It is hoped this Paper will be printed in a future "Part" of these Transactions.

It was Resolved, that the proposed Meeting, &c., at Hinckley, be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of July.

It was further Resolved, that the Rev. Ernest Tower, the Honorary Local Secretary for that district, be requested to communicate that resolution to the Vicar and inhabitants of Hinckley, and to invite them to form there a Local Committee for carrying out the proper arrangements for the Society's visit.

The following architectural plans were exhibited:

By Mr. Wm. Smith, New Adelphi Chambers, London, plans for the proposed restoration and alteration of Kenilworth Church; plans of cottages, at Bitteswell, Leicestershire.

By Messrs. Goddard and Son, Leicester, ground plan and working drawings for the proposed restoration of Cossington Church, Leicestershire. The plans were examined and commented on by the Committee, and the Secretary was directed to convey to the exhibitors their opinions upon several points specially noticeable. The plans for Cossington Church showed a thorough determination on the part of the architects to preserve all the features of the old building, and not to introduce novelties where the original work left a pattern to follow, which called forth the full approbation of the Committee.

The following antiquities, &c., were laid upon the table:

By The Rev. J. H. Hill, the original account of the churchwarden of Cranoe, for the year 1693; a facsimile of an initial letter from a missal executed about the year 1480, by Francesco Veronese, showing a representation of the Presentation in the Temple; a series of drawings illustrative of Stow; an Indian ink drawing, dated 1717, by Lane.

By Mr. North, a spur, and the upper part of a weapon, probably a pike or a spear, or tilting lance, which Mr. North said were found several years ago in draining a field called the Township, west of the village of Ragdale, in this county. These antiquities were found about three feet below the present surface, and near them were scattered several fragments of human bones, among which, it is said, portions of a skull were clearly discernible. At the same time, considerable portions of pavement were cut across in the draining operations, which led to the belief that the present small village of Ragdale formerly extended in that direction, and the name of the field, "The Township," certainly strengthened that supposition. The excavations were not required to be of great depth or very considerable in extent, which may account for the non-discovery of any foundations of buildings which would naturally be found in connection with the pavements. There is no remembrance of any such being seen at the time referred to. Judging from the appearance of the spur (which is perfect excepting the rowel, which is much broken), it is one of the long-necked spurs in fashion during the reigns of Henry V.

and Henry VI. (1413-61). Its entire length (allowing for the rowel) is about nine inches, the neck itself (again allowing for the rowel) being fully five inches. In form and size it resembles the spurs given upon the full length figure of Robert Chamberlain, Esquire to Henry V., in the register book of St. Alban's (*vide* "Fairholt's Glossary," 219), and was fastened by a strap or chain passing under the foot as well as over the instep, as is shown by the ends of the shanks of the spurs, to which those fastenings were attached. The other object found—a portion of a weapon as stated before—is much corroded. It is about sixteen inches long, and about one inch in width in its most perfect part. It tapers at each end; one end being so made, probably, for insertion into a socket of wood, and the other for purposes of offence. Mr. North also exhibited a copy of the facsimile of the portions of Doomsday Book relating to Leicestershire and Rutland, lately photo-zincographed by Her Majesty's command at the Ordnance Office, under the direction of Colonel Sir H. James. The publication of this important work has been undertaken by Messrs. Spencer, of Leicester, and they have added to this exact copy of the original document, a literal extension of the Latin text, and an English translation of the same. The work is issued in a style of typography which does the publishers much credit, and if the Latin extension, and the translation are good—which, on account of the very recent issue of the work, cannot yet have been tested—it is a reproduction of a document of such local interest and value, and so placed within the reach of, and made available for the perusal of the general reader, as well as the experienced antiquary, as to render it a valuable addition to the historical collections of the county.

By Mr. Sarson, a small collection of antiquities found in excavating behind his premises, in St. Nicholas Street, Leicester, comprising a Roman fibula, of the bow shape, so frequently found on all Roman sites; a small circular fibula without the pin; a brass of Vespasian; a long cross penny of one of our English Henries; and the point of an arrow (?). Excavations upon the same spot have before produced vast scraps of Roman and mediæval pottery and bones, and brought to light masses of masonry, the foundations of ancient buildings formerly there existing.

By Mr. Weatherhead (Curator of the Leicester Museum), a drawing of a very curious and handsome fibula, lately found in Leicester, accompanied by a note, in which he said: "I enclose you a coloured drawing of a fibula or brooch, discovered in the early part of the present year, in Cook's brickyard, near the Cemetery, Leicester. The original is in bronze, slightly convex, and is enamelled with red, blue, and yellow. In '*Collectanea Antiqua*,' vol iv., plate xxv., the figures 5 and 8, though dissimilar

in form, yet agree in character and style of ornamentation with our specimen, which evidently approaches the same date, and in the work just mentioned they are considered to belong to the Roman period. I have much pleasure in stating that the Town Museum is greatly indebted to Thos. Viccars, Esq., for this handsome donation to our store of local antiquities."

By Mr. Goddard, the molar tooth of a mammoth, found in close proximity with the tusk of the mammoth found in the outskirts of Leicester, last year, and which is now preserved in our local Museum; silver coins; groats of Edward III.; and a penny of Edward I.

8.

TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

VOL. II.—PART 4.

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Price Three Shillings and Sixpence.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Hinckley, July 19th, 1864.

HINCKLEY MEETING.

The Rev. W. Skirrow, Vicar of Hinckley, President.

The following gentlemen formed the Local Committee:—The Rev. W. Skirrow, Vicar (Chairman), the Rev. J. C. Edwards, Curate, Rev. G. Candy, Rev. F. D. Trenow, Messrs. Abell, J. Atkins, Billings, Bromhead, Choice, T. W. Clarke, Dale, W. Farmer, Goadby, W. H. Griffiths, T. Harrold, W. Harrold, N. E. Hurst, T. S. Ludlow, W. McEwan, Payne, S. Preston, A. Atkins, Bally, Bonner, W. Cowdell, sen., Curtis, Davis, Farndon, Goude, Goode, G. Harrold, T. C. Harris, T. Kiddle, Morley, S. Pilgrim, Penton, W. Pridmore, J. H. Ward, and C. Woodcock.

At 11.30 there was an assemblage of the Committee, the Members of the Society, and several influential inhabitants of Hinckley and its neighbourhood, in the Corn Exchange.

The Rev. W. Skirrow, the Vicar of Hinckley, upon taking the chair, said:—Gentlemen, I feel sure I am only expressing the sentiment of every inhabitant of the town of Hinckley, when I state that it is with feelings of the deepest satisfaction we receive to-day the deputation of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society. In confirmation of my statement I would refer to the list of our local Committee, in which are enrolled the names of forty gentlemen resident in this town. In one sense, the parish of Hinckley may be said to stand in rather an important position regarding archæology. With the exception of the fine old parish church, our records of the past are mostly legendary. We have but few material ones. Long since have our castle

towers and castle walls been battered to the ground by some invading foe, or mouldered into dust under the destroying influence of time. In days long past we once were great, and I trust that we shall some day be great again, but in a far different sense. There was a time when the trumpets of the High Constables of England and of John O'Gaunt sounded within and around our castle walls, calling their followers to rally round the banners of their lords; but we want war no more. It is to the arts of peace—the sound of machinery and the stocking looms—that we look for to our greatness now; but perhaps I should be wrong in saying that this is all we look to for greatness. No! we must not only look forward to the future, but also back upon the past. It has been said by a great philosopher who lived upwards of two thousand years ago, that the anticipation of the future and the memory of the past, compose the happiness of the present time. Therefore, gentlemen, we feel that we need not neglect archæology if we wish to be either happy or great. A study of antiquity teaches all of us to avoid the faults of our ancestors, and also infuses into us a spirit of reverence for their struggles under a cloud of error darker than our own. We therefore welcome with gratitude this visit of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society to our town.

The Rev. E. Tower, as local Secretary for the Hinckley District, replied in the name of the Society. He said that he had a great honour conferred upon him, deputed as he was to thank the vicar, churchwardens, and inhabitants of Hinckley, for the very ready and excellent reception of the Society into their town. The Society was a very useful body. It was not only the means of pleasing a population upon such an occasion as the present by affording a little pastime, and drawing together a number of people of different ways and habits in life, and inducing them to look good naturedly upon each other, and charitably upon their forefathers; but it had for its chief object the diffusion of true knowledge of the science of architecture, the study of Gothic architecture in particular, and the spread of good taste in building, and the conviction of the possibility of uniting taste and utility even in common domestic dwellings. It is to the noble benevolence of our forefathers that we are indebted for the possession of our beautiful old parish churches. No scanty hand built those houses of God, but by a munificence that is remarkable they were intended to last not only for their founders' time but for the use of generations. It is the duty of the members of this Society to lead the way in preserving these churches, and whenever any of their old stones become loose to see them restored and kept.

The old parish churches were peculiarly the symbols of Christianity in the country—the representatives of religion itself, and they witnessed by their beautiful spires especially to the

elevating character of the worship they were built to uphold. He was glad to see that the chancel of the parish church in Hinckley had lately undergone a renovation, and that care had been taken in the work which was a credit to the town.

Mr. Tower then announced that the subscribers numbered two hundred, and that the following were the names of additional members to the Society's list, viz.:—The Lord Bishop of the Diocese; the Vicar of Hinckley; Mr. Short and Mr. H. M. Ward, Hinckley; Rev. J. Harris, Meridan; Rev. Frederick Sutton, of Theddingworth; Mr. Bull, of Leicester; and the Rev. W. H. Marriott. If any other inhabitant of Hinckley or the neighbourhood wished to become a member, the subscription was only ten shillings a year, and for that the Society gave two volumes of really valuable information not only respecting the history of churches but different objects of interest in the county. The subject matter of those publications was valuable, being based on great research, and also because it had been listened to and pulled to pieces by others.

In the course of the proceedings the Vicar read the following letter, which he had received from Lord Curzon:—

"15, Lower Brook Street, London.

"Dear Mr. Skirrow,

"As I see by the *Leicester Journal* that the Leicestershire Architectural Society meet at Hinckley this week, and go to Mancetter on Wednesday, I thought, perhaps, they would like to see the old Manor House there, where I now live, and I have requested Mr. Richings to invite any one who likes to look over the house, and to explain the place where the martyrs were hid, and I am only sorry that I shall not be there myself to bid my Hinckley friends welcome.

"Yours faithfully,

"Curzon."

The business of the Meeting having been brought to a close, the members and their friends attended Morning Prayer at the parish church. The organ was built in 1808, by G. P. England, and is one of the very few by that maker.

At the conclusion of the service, M. H. Bloxam, Esq., ably pointed out the architectural features of the fabric. He said it was the first time he had entered that church. He was almost ashamed to say it, because in that church the remains of some of his ancestors reposed. His great-grandfather, and his great-great-grandmother lay buried in that place; a great uncle, too, reposed in the western portion of the church. When the Castle was built, twelve centuries ago, it was probable that the church was built by the founder of the castle, Hugh de Grantmesnil. Of that structure, which was built twelve centuries ago, however, no remains what-

ever now existed. It was not in that church only that they found no remains of the Norman period, but almost every church in the county he found to have been rebuilt at one particular period, and there were perhaps fewer architectural remains of the Norman period in the churches in this county than in any other county in the kingdom. In the fourteenth century, about the time of Edward the Third, there must have been, all over the county of Leicester, a complete renovation of church buildings, and old churches were then pulled down and rebuilt. There were, perhaps, more churches in that county of the fourteenth century than there were in any other county in the kingdom. That church was rebuilt at that period, on a plan much the same as it was now. One part of the present structure was, however, of an earlier date than the fourteenth century. The portions belonging to the fourteenth century were the piers and arches of the nave and the lower part of the tower, with the great west window, and also the hood moulding over the east window of the chancel. In the fifteenth century the roof appeared to have been raised and the present clerestory windows added. The upper part of the tower seemed then to have been erected. Towards the close of the last century several alterations appeared to have been made; the mullions of many of the windows were destroyed, and the spire was rebuilt. There were two monuments worthy of notice in the church. One in the chancel, with busts, which were painted: it was a fair monument of the kind of the seventeenth century. It reminded him of the monumental bust of Shakspeare in the chancel of the church at Stratford-on-Avon, which was originally painted, subsequently whitewashed, and then painted again. There was also in the south transept a monumental tablet; the monument itself being framed like an ancient funeral targe, with scroll work round it. There was likewise an oil painting in the south transept, which was said to have been painted by Luca Giordano, the famous Neapolitan painter, but it was not by him, or after him; it was a poor copy of some other master. The corbel heads, he noticed, were very curious, and were of the fourteenth century. There was not a great deal to remark upon in that church, or the vicissitudes it had gone through, except the absence of the south door, which he supposed must have been taken down when part of the spire was rebuilt, and the clerestory windows put in, in the last century, and not replaced. The west door was certainly not of a later date than the latter part of the last century; and the brass slab in the middle of the nave was of the fifteenth century. There were originally three brasses in the nave. Nichols calls them "Brasses of Monks," but the one left was undoubtedly that of a lady of the fifteenth century. That was as much as he could say upon the subject.

The company then left the church, and were conducted over the

castle grounds by Mr. Stephen Pilgrim, the courteous owner of the property.

After a time the party assembled in a suitable spot, which commanded a view of the hill and the surrounding country, whence the Rev. W. Skirrow spoke to the following effect:—He believed, he said, the pleasant task devolved upon him of making a few preliminary remarks upon the antiquity of the Castle Hill, upon which they then stood; but unfortunately the subject with which he had to deal was a very poor one. There were no material remains about them; unfortunately not a single stone of the castle was extant. However, he believed that it was supposed that originally it was a camp of the early Britons, and that after that it became a Roman camp; but that was all mere legend. What they knew to be correct was that there was a castle there, inhabited by John of Gaunt, who was the fourth son of King Edward III., and heir to the honours and estates of the Earls of Leicester; that after him it descended to Henry of Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry IV., and on his accession to the throne passed to the crown. How long the castle had been demolished was unknown, but soon after that time it disappeared, and it was supposed to have been destroyed about the year 1460, in the reign of Henry VI., or at any rate between that period and 1485. They knew for a fact that the castle was destroyed; and it was believed that its final destruction came from cannons placed on the Priest Hills, or what was now called Priest Headland. The Lawns on the north of the town were once the pleasure grounds of the castle. After that time it long lay in a state of desolation, then became the property of a gardener, and subsequently (in 1760) it passed into the hands of the Hurst family, by whom the present house was built in 1770; and from them to its present highly respected owner, Mr. Pilgrim. He had now finished what he had to say on the subject, and would transfer it to the more able treatment of Mr. Bloxam.

Mr. Bloxam said it was his first *pilgrimage* to that place, and therefore he had not had an opportunity of looking round and studying it. With reference to its being a British or a Roman remain, his opinion was that it was a mediæval remain of the twelfth century. The castle must have been very small, and probably had a square tower, some eighteen or twenty feet square, with some few scattered buildings round it. That was doubtless the extent of the original castle; what might have been added to it in after ages it was impossible to say. All that remained now were the earthworks, they were very extensive, and might have been the work of two or three periods. They showed that they were raised with a vast deal of labour, and that they must have been continued onwards, because on the opposite side the ground dropped down, but they had nothing to show any more than they

had in many other places. For instance, near Groby there were the earthworks of a Norman castle, consisting of a mound, in the centre of which the original castle or keep was erected, which was a distinctive mark of the Norman castle; they had not, however, got that mark there, but simply the raised earthworks around them. He thought, therefore, that if it was originally a Norman castle the remains must have been gradually destroyed in after times, when it became as it were, more a mansion than a castle. But really without greater discrimination and a reference to the surrounding country, it was almost impossible, on coming there for the first time, to make any observation that could be relied on as absolutely correct.

Mr. James Thompson begged to add a few observations to those they had heard from Mr. Bloxam. In compiling the materials for the History of the Castle of Leicester, he had of course gone over the very same ground as would have to be traversed if he were compiling a history of the Castle of Hinckley. Mr. Bloxam had stated so correctly the general facts in connexion with that particular place, the probable facts, that he need not recapitulate them. He might say, in the case of Leicester Castle, that it was known to have been occupied by the ancient Saxon lords of the old city of Leicester; consequently, there was reason for believing that the mound of the Castle of Leicester had an existence prior to the Norman Conquest. How much further back it might date he would not venture to say. All statements in reference to British castles, and so forth, were mere conjecture of a subsequent period. But, speaking generally, he thought those castle mounds were the work of the conquerors of this country in the twelfth century—of the Norman chieftains and captains who came over with William the Conqueror. It happened that they had an historical fact to guide them in reference to that case, which was very clear, and that was, that the mound was originally constructed by Hugh de Grantmesnil, one of the principal allies and colleagues of William the Conqueror, after he had subjugated the inhabitants of this island. He came over from France about the middle of the eleventh century. At that time, the conduct of the conquerors was very similar to what ours was in India at the present day. We, the British people, had conquered India, and of course held the whole country, the millions of Hindoostan, in subjection; they had been expelled from their property, and what was their ancestors' and of course they had been our enemies, and might be supposed were to a great extent enemies of the British rulers still. In the eleventh century precisely the same thing occurred in England. The houses, property, and lands of the ancient English people, were invaded by a foreign race who had settled in Normandy, in the North of France, three centuries before, and to whom the name of Normans was given. In order to guard against the attacks

of the Saxons, the Normans found it necessary to erect mounds in different districts on which they built the castle keeps of those days, and remains of which were found scattered all over England. At Leicester there were remains of one, at Hallaton another, at Groby another, at Earl's Shilton another, another at Warwick, and in other places they were still to be seen. Wherever they went they found mounds similar to that: although, perhaps, not so extensive. They were simply large mounds, upon which were raised single towers, sometimes square, sometimes circular, in which the conquerors placed their garrison, and in which the chief men lived during the troublous period which followed the conquest of England by the Normans. He was reminded during that beautiful Service at the Church, of the period when the men-at-arms, the retainers of the chieftains who inhabited the castle, heard the old service, the mass and vesper, chanted or said to them within those walls, as they knew was the case in the days of yore. The poet had said:

> "Not dry and barren are the paths of Hoar Antiquity,
> But strewn with flowers."

Every person who had directed his attention to antiquarian pursuits, knew that they were not dry and uninteresting, but grew upon them in interest, pleasure, and delight, as they made progress in them. Mr. Thompson concluded by thanking his audience for the patient attention with which they had listened to his remarks.

Mr. Bloxam asked to be allowed to make another remark. With regard to Warwick Castle and Tamworth Castle, both of which stood on mounds, they knew those had been erected by the Saxons, the precise year of their erection being recorded in the Saxon Chronicles. With regard to Hallaton, he passed that way a few months ago, and came to the conclusion that it was not a mediæval mound, or a Norman, or Saxon mound, but simply an ancient British entrenchment; and, after he had made a further examination, that view was corroborated by this curious circumstance, that within half a mile there was a small Roman entrenchment, which showed what their mode of proceeding was. Whenever they had to attack a British entrenchment, if that was defended, they always, within a short distance, threw up small earthworks, on which to retire in case of need. They did not take it for granted that they would subdue the British fortifications, but always had some point of attack on which they could fall if necessary. That was the case at Hallaton.

The Rev. E. Tower had great pleasure in saying that the Museum was now open to the public, and he could not help further remarking, in the name of the Members of the Society, that they owed a great debt to the Hinckley Committee for the extraordinary diligence they appeared to have shown in bringing

together the very excellent Museum that was collected at the Town Hall, and he begged the attention of all present to it. The Vicar had reminded him of a duty he had to perform, that was, to acknowledge on behalf of the Society the great exertions of one member of the Committee—the best thanks of all were due to Mr. Cotman. They had heard of monuments being raised by travellers, each bringing a great stone and placing it, and so raising a great mound. Well, it was exactly the same with their undertaking. If one person tried to do it, he could not, but if every person who had an interest in raising the monument, used his hands and tried to work for an object like theirs, it was done; but there must be a leader, and the leaders on the present occasion were the Vicar and Mr. Cotman. Mr. Tower then announced that at four o'clock a cursory explanation of the objects of the Museum would be given by Mr. Bloxam.

THE MUSEUM

Contained a great mass of objects of antiquarian and general interest, and of works of art, contributed by rich and poor residing in Hinckley and its neighbourhood. It is deemed unnecessary to give a detailed catalogue of the articles exhibited, but the following extracts will show that very many of them possess more than a merely local value.

Exhibited by Mr. Rubley: Cabinet; two fine bronze celts, found in Northamptonshire.

By Mr. Short: First printing press introduced into Hinckley, in 1773; pectoral crucifix; Dutch folding lantern.

By Messrs. Harrold: Hinges from Sharnford and Stoke Churches; poppy heads from ditto; cannon ball, &c., found in Hinckley; spear from Bosworth Field; collection of works upon architecture; carving from rood screen, Sharnford Church: carved panels from Ibstock; casts of oak panels from Atherstone; bosses from Hinckley Church; three panels (linen pattern), from Burbage Manor House; tobacco box, dated 1764; scraps of ancient glass from Sharnford Church.

By Mr. John Wilson: Pair of ancient slippers.

By Mr. Cotman: Old and New Testaments, illustrated; fine specimens of brocaded silk; ancient housewife in brocaded silk; fans, &c.; Lady's chataline, &c.

By Mr. Jno. Hopkins: Bill of Grand Musical Festival in Hinckley Church, 8th October, 1805; ancient font, said to be from Elmsthorpe Church.

By Mr. H. M. Ward: Note Book of Peter Jaques, some time Vicar of Hinckley; Nichols' History of Hinckley; MS. copy of Award of Hinckley Parish; Bullinger's Sermons on the Apocalypse, London, 1573; Macaulay's Claybrooke; *Leicester Herald*,

1732 to 1763; Nichols' History of Sparkenhoe Hundred; collection of china.

By Mr. Gutteridge: Hinkley Inclosure Act; and English coins.

By Rev. Jno. Sankey: manuscripts on vellum, a portion dated 1343, comprising apparently an office for the celebration of the Festival of Corpus Christi, and a summary of the Canons and Provincial Constitutions; various books, including Latimer's Sermons, the title page of the first bearing date 1548; Fuller's Holy State, 1642; Queen Elizabeth's Injunctions, 1559; several medals, one by John Lilburne, giving the names of the jury who acquitted him, October, 1649—A. Wood says of him, that he was so quarrelsome that if he were alone in the world, "John would be against Lilburne, and Lilburne against John;" coins of James II., William III., &c., &c.

By Mrs. Bonner: Saddle covered with green velvet from Bosworth Field (?).

By Mrs. Sheen: View of Charing Cross and Westminster Abbey in 1450.

By Sir A. B. C. Dixie: Small box, containing four Tradesmen's Tokens, viz.—William Iliffe, Hinckley, 1662; Thomas Davell, Hinckley; Samuel Willson, Leicester, and Joseph C . . ., Hinckley.

By Mr. Brocklehurst: Manilla China.

By Mr. W. Cowdell: Tobacco box, "George Cowdell, Naseby, Northamptonshire, 1734."

By Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth: many specimens of mural decorations, executed by himself and under his guidance.

By Mr. Weatherhead: Drawings of bronze antiquities, found in the Town and County of Leicester.

By Mr. James Wykes: Prayer and New Testament, *temp.* Elizabeth.

By Mr. Farndon: Collection of silver and copper coins; lady's shoe, *temp.* Queen Anne.

By Mr. James Lees: Working model of stocking frame.

By Mr. S. R. Bonner: Small silver box for suspension—on front, the sacred monogram I.H.S. and a heart pierced by three nails—on back, M.R.A. and a heart pierced by a sword; small pectoral crucifix, and various coins; old spectacles.

By Mrs. Cotton, Burbage: Indian curiosities and personal ornaments.

By Rev. E. Tower: Models of statuary from the Vatican; Italian casts.

By Mr. James Argyle: Dress, *temp.* George III.

By S. Angent, Esq.: Chinese curiosities, very fine.

By Rev. Wm. Skirrow: Glass lachrymatory from Egypt, with modern stopper; fine Indian carvings in ivory; gold comfit box,

seventeenth century; Swiss and other foreign curiosities of great beauty; Russian triptich from the Crimea; jewel box, A.D. 1614, richly ornamented with bead work, velvet, and mirrors; curious Chinese figures and china; Canadian curiosities.

By Mrs. Pridmore: Specimens of china.

By T. S. Ludlow, Esq.: Kaffir gourd bottles from Natal, &c., &c.

By Rev. T. H. Evans: Statue in wood from Alexandria.

By Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Co.: Specimens of stained glass, and various designs for windows.

By Rev. —. Bradford: Sword hilt from Bosworth Field; fine specimen of ancient British bronze; arrow-head found in Bosworth Field two feet below the surface in December, 1837.

By Mr. A. Atkins: Lachrymatory from Pompeii.

By Rev. E. Tower: Large Dutch Jug, *temp.* Geo. I.

By Mrs. Cleaver: Pair of Jugs.

By Mrs. Pridmore: Ancient Needlework.

By Rev. M. Berry: Horns found at Burbage, three feet below the surface, in cutting a drain.

By Mr. W. A. Todd: Comfit box, *temp.* Elizabeth.

By Mrs. Smith, Elmsthorpe: Box enamelled on copper; Chinese idol, &c., &c.; indentures, dated 1714; various boxes; ancient watch and key; piece of tapestry, representing the story of Susannah and the Elders; a large brass button, with the initials W. R., formerly belonging to Sir William Roberts, of Sutton Cheney—he founded an hospital there in 1612, was sheriff of Leicestershire in 1618, was knighted at Belvoir, August 6, 1619, died 24th February, 1633, and left the interest of £30. between the poor of Hinckley and Barwell; portraits of John Ward of Hinckley and John Throseby; ancient spur and bit; specimens of ancient delf; a large collection of ancient and modern china.

At four o'clock, Mr. Bloxam commenced a lucid description of the more prominent specimens, beginning with a quern or hand corn mill, dug out of the railway excavations near to Whetstone. Mr. Bloxam described it as one of the largest and most perfect of these Roman mills he had ever seen, and it must have originally come from Germany. He next inspected some spear heads found at Bosworth, pointing out that one of them must be considered of the early English period, consequently much older than the date of the Battle of Bosworth Field. Several keys, said to be of the Roman period, were hardly of the pattern they should have been if they were authentic; one especially, found at Twycross, he pointed out as being about one hundred years old. Some earthenware, spurs, a small casket, and unfinished needlework, he described as rare specimens of their class. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Bloxam alluded to a number of curious horns of the Roman

period which had been found in a heap at Burbage; he was not naturalist enough to say to what species of animal they belonged. There was a remarkable little coffer, covered with leather and bound in iron, probably of the Elizabethan period. Having described some local tokens formerly used by the tradesmen of Hinckley, Mr. Bloxam alluded to an illuminated MS. described in the above list, as a curious relic, and proceeded to call attention, especially that of the ladies, to a very perfect but laughable specimen of a "poke bonnet" worn "when George III. was King," believing that we should soon come round to the same fashion again. One of the next objects pointed out was a copy of Latimer's sermons, printed in his lifetime, which he thought was very interesting.

Mr. James Thompson supplemented Mr. Bloxam's observations by a few general remarks on the successive periods of English history, with a view to the classification of articles of antiquity according to their dates and styles of ornamentation. He briefly glanced at the Roman, Saxon, and Norman periods, and then referred to the styles of Gothic architecture, including the Early English, the Decorative, and the Perpendicular, and added that the subsequent periods were known as the Renaissance, the Elizabethan, and the Jacobean. Mr. Thompson gave these explanations with a view to prevent misunderstanding as to the use of terms in connexion with the articles exhibited in the Museum.

THE ORDINARY.

At half-past six o'clock in the evening there was an Ordinary at the George Hotel, Hinckley, which was largely attended, the room being quite full.

THE EVENING MEETING.

At eight o'clock a public Meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, the Vicar, as President of the Congress, occupying the chair.

The Chairman called first upon Mr. James Thompson to read his Paper on

ANCIENT HINCKLEY.

At the Norman Conquest, when the defeat of the native English by the Norman conquerors was followed by a complete change of proprietors, the land at Hinckley fell into the possession of Aubrey de Vere, the Lord High Chamberlain of King William.

At this time (about the year 1086) the lordship consisted of fourteen ploughlands, which in the time of Edward the Confessor

—thirty years or so before—had been valued at six pounds' weight of silver, but which now were worth in yearly rent ten pounds' weight, or between thirty and forty pounds in modern reckoning. This was at a time, too, when money gave a greater command over commodities than it does in this age; as wheat, for instance, then sold for 1s. 9d. a quarter. Earl Aubrey had four ploughs and eight serfs or bondsmen; while forty-two villans (whom, for the sake of plainer speaking, I may call "smockfrock farmers"), with sixteen bordars or cottagers, and three persons in higher rank and more independent position, called "sokemen," had nine ploughs and a half. There was, at an outside computation, supposing every ploughland to consist of 120 acres, 1680 acres under cultivation about Hinckley. There was a meadow six furlongs long and three broad; and a wood one mile long and three furlongs broad, which probably covered the ground on the south side of the town, between it and the adjoining parish of Burbage. From these particulars (still preserved in the Domesday Survey) it may be inferred that Earl Aubrey kept in his own hands as much as could be ploughed by four ploughs and eight serfs, while the remainder of the inhabitants, all in a more or less dependent condition, worked as much as nine ploughs, and half as much as one plough more, would enable them to do—that is, they had not enough to require ten ploughs to be going regularly. The whole male adult population, all husbandmen, numbered 69. If they were married men, with an average family of three children each, the number of residents would be 345. It is probable the arable land in the parish was much less than 1680 acres; as the ploughland has been variously estimated at from 30 to 120 acres; and therefore, of the 2000 acres of which the lordship consisted, there may have been as few as 420 undergoing culture.

By comparison with Market Bosworth at the period under notice, we learn that Hinckley was the larger domain; there being 32 males employed in agriculture in Bosworth, when there were 69 in Hinckley, and 14 ploughlands in Hinckley when there were 8 in Bosworth. Barwell, at the same date, was still lower in the scale, having only five ploughlands under the share, and 26 men to labour in the fields.

Humble, obscure, and oppressed, the men of Hinckley anciently huddled together in huts round the open space now known as the Market Place and the Round Hill in the Borough, in which different roads centered. Their dwellings were built of timber, with mud filled in between the parts of the framework, and they were covered with sods, boards, or thatch. One room, lighted and entered by the door, served as lodging room and kitchen; and there was no storey above, for if another room could be afforded, it was added to the end or side of that already erected.

The lord of Hinckley succeeding Earl Aubrey was Hugh de

Grantmesnil, or (as it may be Englished) Hugh of the Great House, who was the largest landholder in Leicestershire. He was a Norman and an intimate associate of the Conqueror, and became High Steward of England, as well as possessor of the manor and bailiwick of Hinckley. To him is attributed the erection of the Castle, the foundation of a park around it, and the building of the parish church.

If it be permissible in an historical paper like this, to refer to the pages of fiction, I may show you from Bulwer's novel, "Harold, the Last of the Saxon Kings," what these Norman barons were: "Like the Spartans," says Bulwer, "every Norman was free and noble; and this consciousness inspired not only that remarkable dignity of mien which Spartan and Norman alike possessed, but also that fastidious self-respect which would have revolted from exhibiting a spectacle of debasement to inferiors. And, lastly, the paucity of their original numbers, the perils that beset, and the good fortune that attended them, served to render the Spartans the most religious of all the Greeks in their dependence on the Divine aid; so perhaps, to the same causes may be traced the proverbial piety of the ceremonial Normans."

When in the story Wolnoth, the darling son of Harold, pleads that he may go to the court of William the Norman, he says, "the good king knows that I shall be welcome, for the Norman knights love Wolnoth, and I have spent hours by the knees of Montgommeri and Grantmesnil, listening to the feats of Rolfganger, and playing with the gold chains of knighthood." Throughout the narrative, Grantmesnil is mentioned again and again, always as one of the bravest of Norman knights. In the course of the fierce conflict, the Norman Conqueror exclaims, "Our soldiers are but women in the garb of Normans. Ho, spears to the rescue! With me to the charge, Sires D'Aumale and De Litton—with me, gallant Brnse and de Mortain; with me, De Graville, and Grantmesnil—Dex aide! Notre Dame!"

The town standing on a sloping site, the spot selected for the Castle was at its upper end, some distance from the dwellings, and there a mound of considerable elevation was probably raised by the labour of the Earl's serfs and tenants. A deep ditch was dug around it, and on its summit a tower of stone in all probability was erected. In this the armed retainers of the baron were lodged, and by their power the surrounding country was kept in subjection. With enemies on all sides, composed of the inhabitants dispossessed by the Normans of their lands and homesteads and houses (some of the natives reduced from being the lords of the soil to become labourers on estates which had once been their own), the soldiers of the castle needed a stronghold to fly to, and from which they might defy the menaces of the exasperated population.

In this unsettled state of things, the relations of the people of

Hinckley to their foreign masters were necessarily hostile, and embittered by a desire for mutual revenge. No feelings but one of a determination to rule on one side and to resist on the other, would possibly exist between them; and such must have prevailed during the life-time of Hugh de Grantmesnil. From him to the Earls of Leicester passed the manor and bailiwick of Hinckley. Under these personages, who flourished during the twelfth century, in the successive reigns of William Rufus, Henry the First and Second, Stephen, Matilda, Richard Cœur de Lion, and John, there was a gradual change from the implacable enmity existing shortly after the Conquest to more amicable relationships; as may be inferred from the progress of events in Leicester, where the Earls, during the same epoch, granted charters to the burgesses, guaranteeing to them a restoration of the ancient liberties and customs of which the Conquest had deprived their forefathers.

No charter, however, is extant relative to Hinckley. Doubtless the Earls of Leicester, as its feudal barons, held their Court Leet, at which the inhabitants of the place were bound to do homage and service. This was presided over by a bailiff, who was appointed by the Earl for the time being, and who very likely lived at the Castle as the *locum tenens* of his masters, and as the officer in command of its garrison.

At this time the Court Leet was no shadowy institution or occasion of unmeaning ceremonialism; but a substantial reality, and an operative agency in local affairs. Having been at the pains to investigate this subject on another occasion, with a view of illustrating the municipal institutions of this country, I may here repeat the explanations there offered as the conclusions of my researches.

In the outset, we have to conceive of a state of society widely different from that now existing, and to carry back our ideas into the period preceding the Norman Conquest. We have to premise that when the invasion by the Saxons had proved generally successful, and the land had fallen into the hands of its new owners, the chief of these constituted, in their own domains, the rulers—or, to select a term in modern use, the "lords of the manors." To them, by a nominal delegation from the sovereign, was imparted authority over all their tenants and the residents upon their estates. They held their courts, in which all males were obliged to be enrolled at a certain age, to find two friends to be securities for them, and to appear at stated periods yearly. In these courts the steward or deputy of the manorial lord presided, and justice was done—the criminal laws being therein administered, and civil suits being therein determined. The jurisdiction was necessarily limited and defined—other courts, as those of the County and the Hundred, having greater authority, and being appealed to in cases where the manorial courts were supposed to

be incompetent to the final arbitrement of weighty matters of controversy.

In the rural districts this system had, perhaps, its original and primitive home, and was brought into this country from Germany by the invaders, who had been accustomed to it in the scattered communities of their fatherland; but it was capable of adaptation to the requirements of townsmen. We may ascertain what the system had become shortly before the Norman Conquest, by referring to the Laws of Edward the Confessor, in which the various powers of the lords of the manor are minutely detailed. In the twenty-second of those laws they are stated to be *soc*, *sac*, *theam*, and *infangtheof*. Under these obsolete terms are disguised the right to have jurisdiction over a domain, in settling various pleas and suits that might arise among tenants, and the power of punishing theft; the right to take the fines or forfeits imposed at the courts; the right of persons living in the manor to buy and sell; the right of levying forfeits or penalties upon offenders; and the right to punish a thief belonging to another district, if he robbed a tenant and were captured in the lordship.

It will be perceived that here are the rude germs of local self-government. When towns became populous, and communities acquired sufficient unity of purpose and character, they sought to procure from the monarch or the lord of the manor, either by agreement or purchase, the same authority as that he himself possessed. In such an event, the townsmen in their communal character, became entitled to appoint their own steward or bailiff to preside in the Court Leet, and to decide pleas and to punish offenders, selected a jury or juries among themselves, and put into a common purse the fees levied upon the suitors in the courts and the fines imposed upon convicted criminals. It is not improbable the lord of the manor would find it ultimately advantageous to transfer his powers absolutely, or for a term of years, to the townsmen, on consideration of receiving, without the trouble of collection, as large a sum annually as he had previously derived from his own bailiff, with whom he had to share the receipts. Beginning in this way, by compounding with their lord for the exercise of his prerogative, it is only in the course of events to suppose the townsmen would eventually procure a still greater extension of the principle of self-government, and would acquire greater ability for its exercise.

The history of the connection of the ancient lords of Hinckley with the place, and the history of its ancient privileges, are necessarily closely interwoven. We therefore turn to the former, as presented by Nichols, the county historian, in order to illustrate the latter; and in so doing find that in the year 1277 king Henry the Third bestowed all the honours and rights which Simon de Montfort had enjoyed, on his second son Edmund, surnamed Crouchback, and to his heirs for ever. In 1296 it was found that this nobleman

held directly of the king, his brother, sixteen virgates of land in demesne, in the suburbs of Hinckley. On his decease, in the same year, he was the possessor of the manor of Hinckley; and among the fees for which he received a certain tax called "scutage" of the tenants, were those derived from "the free tenants of Hinckley," who held a virgate and a half, and a fourth part of a virgate in the lordship. In 1298 the manor and park of Hinckley were assigned for the dower of Blanche, the widow of Earl Edmund, and from this precedent they became afterwards the regular dower of several of the queens dowager of England.

In Edward the Second's reign, a number of persons named in the Feodary's account of Leicestershire, held fees in Hinckley. These were John Baseville, Michael de Maynard, John de Calby and his wife Christiana, William Chapman, junior, Thomas Wake of Lydell, Richard Charnells, Thomas Astley, Lady la Botiller of Wem, William de Ashley and Christiana his wife, and Sir John de Seagrave. They were the proprietors of portions of the land and houses.

Among the other documents throwing light upon the history of the town is one bearing date 1344, which proves that William de Shilton and William de Crudworth gave three messuages, and half a messuage, and one shop, in Hinckley, to the Abbot of Merevale.

But we can infer little from these facts in relation to the progress of local freedom, and we are left to guess in what way that became developed. I presume that the place became a "borough" when the inhabitants acquired a certain degree of independence of the feudal relationship—when the inhabitants in their Court Leet managed, to a certain extent, their own affairs, after paying a composition to the lords of the manor. This probably took place when the borough of Hinckley merged in the Crown, on the accession of Henry, the son of John of Gaunt, as Henry the Fourth; the direct influence of the ancient feudal lords of the place being then weakened, through their non-residence in the county town, and by their election to the sovereign authority. This view derives some confirmation from the fact of Hinckley being first known to be designated a "borough" in the year 1416, that is, within twenty years after the date of Henry the Fourth's assumption of the crown. It was then rated at £2. 8s. in a book of fifteenths and tenths granted by the laity. In 1444, Henry the Sixth, in his marriage settlement upon his intended consort, gave to her the manor of Hinckley, the borough of Hinckley, and the bond of Hinckley; which means, we may suppose, that the king gave the rents due from the lordship, and the fees and payments received in the Court Leet of the borough and the bond, to the queen, for her use and benefit.

Hinckley, it would thus appear, has enjoyed the distinction of being a borough for four hundred and fifty years, during which

period it has been within defined limits self-governed,—has chosen its local officers, its bailiffs, its juries, and its constables. Unfortunately there are no very ancient documents extant (of which I am aware) to enable us to trace the rise and growth and diminution of local privileges. In answer to my enquiries (which have been courteously met by Mr. Samuel Robinson Bonner, Mr. Stephen Pilgrim, and Mr. Thomas Short) no information has been furnished respecting any archives in Hinckley.

The earliest document placed in my hands is scarcely venerable enough in the estimation of an archæologist, but it conveys by suggestion, perhaps, what were the more ancient usages of Hinckley. It is dated 1744, and is headed thus: "Manor of Hinckley, with the members. To wit, the Court View of Frank Pledge and Court Baron of Thomas Sansom, Joseph Robinson, and William Venable, Gentlemen, Lords of the said Manor, the 19th day of April, at the Guild Hall in Hinckley aforesaid, in the year of our Lord 1744, before Edward Taylor, Esq., there, and I, Strong Ensor, Gent., Deputy Steward there."

Then follow the names of the Borough Jury, or "the Jury for our Sovereign Lord the King, as well as for the Lords of the said Manor." These are Mr. John Nutt, Joshua Morris, William Bentley, Joseph Iliff, Wm. Langham, Thomas Hurst, John Corbitt, John Lee, Edward Wilkinson, and James Watson. There was also the Bond End Jury, composed of Mr. Wm. Morris, Mr. Samuel Craven, Mr. Lakin, Richard Goode, John Warren, Joseph Neal, John Russell, Wm. Cooper, John Groudage, Thomas Sharp, William Blakesley, Thomas Morris, and Edward Hopkins. A third Jury, called the Foreign Jury, was also sworn, consisting of William Appleby of Hinckley, Thomas Marson of Hinckley, Richard Garner of Hinckley, John Suffolk of Stoke, John Cox of Stoke, George Ball of Stoke, Samuel Coward of Atterton, Robert Fortescue of Hinckley, George Conduit of Wykin, Richard Sandifer of Wykin, John Hutshins of Higham, Jos. Moggs of Wilnecote, and Timothy Freer, jun. of Hinckley.

Numerous defaulters were fined for non-attendance, and constables and third-boroughs were chosen. Then comes a long list of penalties levied by the Borough Jury for committing small offences; for neglecting to keep pumps and chimneys in repair, for obstructing the roads, for allowing heaps of refuse to accumulate, for using false weights and measures, and so forth. The Bond End Jury seemed to have exercised a wider jurisdiction. Altogether there were thirty-eight laws, principally relating to the town field and to turning-in, numbered in succession—defining the rights of each commoner. The Foreign Jury made regulations for the Castle End of a similar nature to those made for the Borough.

Mr. Nichols observes as follows, in vol. 4, part 2, of his History of the County, concerning the Borough and the Bond: "Under its

original lords, the town of Hinckley enjoyed the privileges of a Borough; and, from their connection with the *Lancaster* family, the inhabitants took a decided part in the civil contests. But, whatever their privileges were, they became forfeited to the conquering monarch of the house of *York*. The lordship, however, is still divided into two distinct liberties, the Borough and the Bond; and the former of which divisions has its peculiar privileges. . . . The whole number of town officers are fifteen, namely, chosen at the Court Leet; for the Borough, the Mayor or Bailiff, one constable, two head-boroughs; for the Bond, one constable, three head-boroughs [Here follows a list of Church and Poor-Law Officers, and Mr. Nichols continues]: The Mayor of Hinckley, who must necessarily be an inhabitant, residing within the Borough, has authority to regulate the markets and examine the weights. . . . The Borough, as far as I can find, is the only part of the ancient property from which a chief rent is reserved to the Crown in right of the Duchy of Lancaster."

The statement of the forfeiture of ancient privileges rests on the authority of Mr. Nichols, who does not refer to any documentary evidence in support of it; but it has been shown that Hinckley was a borough in the reign of Henry the Fifth. Owing to the entire absence of local charters and manuscripts of a date before the feoffment took place, in the sixteenth century, there are no means of ascertaining what the actual state of affairs was which constituted the place a borough—whether there was an officer placed on the footing of a Mayor—or whether an organization existed which could by any stretch of definition be properly designated a Corporation. There can be no doubt that the grim symbol of the law's power, the gallows, formerly stood on the road from Hinckley to Derby; a pillory was also standing in the Borough; and an ancient Guild Hall occupied a site in its very centre. The old Earls of Leicester also, in right of their honour of Hinckley, bore a distinctive banner, which, in heraldic phraseology, was "*party per pale indented, argent and gules;*" and under which the ancient inhabitants would be led, as the modern Hinckley Volunteers might appropriately be led, were occasion to require, to gallant service in defence of Queen and Fatherland. All these things—the gallows, the pillory, the Guild Hall, the distinctive banner—indicate a Past in which the community here resident had a corporate unity, and a *status* among the old centres of English population; but beyond these bare suggestions of what has been, the antiquary looks in vain for remains and tokens of ANCIENT HINCKLEY. Protected by its Castle Keep in the mediæval period, it needed no walls; and when the improved state of society rendered the Castle unnecessary, that building fell into ruin; so that in the reign of James the First, when the topographer Burton wrote, it was "utterly ruinated and gone, and only the mounts, rampires, and trenches, were to be seen; and the fair and large park was then disparked."

I trust I have said enough to show that there is much to be interested in, and much to be discovered in relation to, the borough of Hinckley. If the visit of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society shall have occasioned light to be thrown on obscure matters connected with its history, its institutions, and its relics, the visit will have fulfilled one of its principal purposes, and will have offered a species of return, however inadequate, for the kindly and hearty welcome the Society has received from the Committee and other inhabitants.

The Chairman then explained that Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A., was unavoidably absent from the meeting, but that his promised Paper would be read by Mr. North, one of the Honorary Secretaries.

NOTES ON ANCIENT HOSIERY.

Having failed to discover in any books a satisfactory account of the introduction and history of the Stocking, I suggested the subject to the officers of this Society, as one possessing peculiar claims on its attention, considering how much the commercial prosperity of the county of Leicester has been founded on the manufacture of hosiery. My proposition was not only kindly responded to, but I was requested to communicate my own observations, which I consented to do, although my notes were fragmentary and incidental, and consequently inadequate to form a connected memoir.

The stocking is not a garment of high antiquity either in name or substance. Our ancestors clothed their lower limbs with hose, of which the stock or stocking was a part only. At first the name was not stocking, but stock. The second syllable is a corruption of the old plural *en;* and the phrase—a pair of stocken—was gradually altered to a pair of stockings; as we have in like manner redoubled the plural in chickens, instead of adhering to the form expressed in the old domestic proverb, that

> "Children and chicken,
> Are always a picking."

For *hosen* we have still the ancient plural in our present translation of the Bible, where we are told of Shadrach, Mesech, and Abednego, that they were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast bound in the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

The stock being then, originally, a part of the hose, it is necessary, in the first place, to ascertain of what the hose altogether consisted. Hose were a combination of what we now term drawers and stockings, such as in more recent times have been named pantaloons, from having been the characteristic costume of the *Piantaleone*, or imbecile old man of the Italian pantomime. They covered all the lower part of the body, as the doublet covered the

upper part. Over both might be occasionally thrown a cloak or mantle, or other outer vestment, which took the several names of coat, surcoat, surplice, jerkin, jacket, and others, according to its size, fashion, or material, but which in the Elizabethan age was usually termed the gown. It is remarkable that we have now breeches, and that our forefathers had them in the days of the ancient Romans; but in our mediæval period the term breeches was, for some centuries, superseded by that of hose. The surname of Hoese or Hussey was Latinized by *Hosatus* (a man wearing hose), although, like many other names that have apparently a personal meaning, it had probably a local origin in Normandy; and a hose was the heraldic cognizance of that family, now converted into their crest of a boot. But we do not find any *hosæ*, or hose, in classical Latin, whilst *braccæ* or breeches are spoken of by Ovid, Tacitus, Propertius, and other ancient authors. The Northern nations, whose climate required this kind of clothing, were on that account inconsiderately stigmatized as effeminate by the Romans; and *Gallia braccata*, or that part of Gaul about Narbonne, was thus distinguished as by contrast from the *Italia togata* on the other side of the Alps.

Shakespeare speaks of hose in various passages; in others of stockings, but which he as often called stocks, retaining the original signification of the word that we have already noticed. In *Twelfth Night* Sir Andrew Aguecheek boasts of his leg, and says, "Ay, 'tis strong, and it does indifferent well in a flame-coloured stock;" whilst in the same play we have the ever memorable yellow stockings of Malvolio, as well as the fashion of cross-gartering, which he was befooled to imagine that his mistress admired, though she really detested it, and abhorred the colour of yellow. In *Hamlet* Ophelia describes

> "Lord Hamlet, with his doublet all unbraced,
> No hat upon his head; his stockings foul'd,
> Ungarter'd, and down-gyved to his ancle."

But these stocks, stockings, or hose were all alike made of linen or woollen cloth, cut into shape and sewn together; and that was the cause of their requiring garterings, and even cross-garterings, much more than our more elastic fabrics. In his description of the Seven Ages of Man, Shakespeare represents the lean and slippered pantaloon as wearing still his youthful hose, a world too wide for his shrunk shanks—for which garters or braces would be absolutely necessary. To go with hose ungartered was an evident token of slovenliness or absence of mind. Sir Protheus, in the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, being in love, could not see to garter his hose—because love is blind. The materials of which hose were made were thinner or stouter, as warmth and strength required. They were sometimes made of linen only, but usually of the same cloths that

were employed for coats and jerkins. In *The Taming of the Shrew* Petruchio's lacquey appears "with a *linen* stock on one leg, and a *kersey* boot-hose on the other, gartered with a red and blue list." The boot-hose, which was made to wear under a boot, was formed of the stouter material. The seams were protected and strengthened by guards, which, for ornament sake, were often made of another colour, and in subsequent times were developed into what are still remembered as clocks. Before the term stocking was finally adopted in its modern sense, the coverings of the leg were called *stocks of hose* or *nether stocks*, whilst what we now call breeches were termed *upper stocks*.

When the great Earl of Leicester, as a knight of St. Michael of France, celebrated the feast of that order in the year 1571, at the town of Warwick, he was apparelled all in white, but the costly materials of his attire were various, and are thus described:—"His shoes of velvet; his *stocks of hose* knit silk; his *upper stocks*—[that is what we should now call his breeches]—of white velvet, lined—[that is slashed and inlaid]—with cloth of silver; his doublet of cloth of silver; his jerkin white velvet drawn with silver, beautified with gold and precious stones; his girdle and scabbard white velvet; his robe white satin, embroidered with gold a foot broad, very curiously; his cap black velvet, with a white feather; his collar of gold, beset with precious stones; and his garter about his leg of St. George's order; altogether, a sight," adds the narrator, "worthy of beholding." In this passage we have an early mention of knit silk stockings. Any knit stockings, and particularly those of silk, were in high estimation in the reign of Elizabeth, and they are more than once mentioned as presents made to the Queen and to other persons of the highest rank. I believe they were made entirely without machinery, even of the simplest kind, by needles worked with the hand. The great occupation of women, in mediæval times, was, as is well known, spinning flax and wool; but with the spinsters Shakespeare mentions also the knitters, and the makers of bone lace, who alike delighted in the sweetness of a simple song:—

> "Mark it, Cesario; it is old and plain;
> The spinsters and the knitters in the sun,
> And the free maids that weave their lace with bones,
> Do use to chant it."

The greater comfort in wearing knitted hose rather than those sewn together of cloth may be readily conceived. One is not disposed to envy people who were condemned to wear those of the latter description, which must have been in many ways disagreeable. Still less can we fancy the task of the hosier, whose business it was to repair such stockings after long use. We now talk of sweeping the streets as an alternative preferable to any occupation we may consider particularly obnoxious; but in Shakespeare's time there was nothing

worse than mending stockings. Sir John Falstaff, when most disgusted with his condition, exclaims, "Ere I lead this life long, I'll sow *nether stocks*, and mend them and foot them too." These few remarks have been derived from sources perhaps too obvious and familiar to be considered new or important; but I have collected many more upon the same subject during the last few years, which unfortunately I have recently mislaid whilst removing my papers. On my recovering them, I shall hasten to offer them to the Society, and in the meantime I shall feel much obliged by the communication of any memorandum bearing upon the subject of ancient hosiery, and more particularly by any works or anecdotes that are trustworthy, relative to the first introduction of the stocking frame, the circumstances of which, so far as I can find, have hitherto been but imperfectly ascertained.

This Paper was succeeded by the following, contributed and read by Mr. Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, F.S.A.

MEREVALE ABBEY.

It is difficult to estimate the immense influence the great religious communities possessed during the middle ages, both in this country, and also in Ireland, Scotland, and on the continent, in the progress of civilization. Even in the present day we see the effects everywhere around us, in our Churches, in those venerable ruins of the Monasteries and Conventual foundations scattered all over the country, and the further destruction of which would, in the opinion of every one of the slightest education, be considered as an act of barbarism worthy of the severest reprobation. Time was, at no far distant period, when these ruins were looked upon as mere quarries of building stone, ready cut and fitted for that purpose. And that such was the case with respect to the ruins of Merevale Abbey, appears from an advertisement in one of the country papers about a century ago, for the sale of cut ashlar stone from these very remains.

But as to the history of this Abbey, one of the three great Cistercian abbeys founded in Warwickshire, and one that was intimately connected with Leicestershire, as being founded by one of a noble family resident in that county, and who endowed it with considerable lands and possessions therein :—

From the great, learned, powerful, and wealthy Benedictine Order, founded by St. Benedict in the fifth century, emanated, at the close of the eleventh century, A.D. 1098, the Cistercian Order, commenced by Robert, abbot of Molesme, at Cistertium or Cisteaux, in the bishopric of Chalons, in Burgundy.

An Englishman, Stephen Harding, third abbot of Cisteaux, brought this Order into great repute, and he has been considered

as the principal founder. The great St. Bernard (the last, as he has been called, of the Fathers of the Church) was of this Order, and was Abbot of Clairvaux or Clareval, in the diocese of Langres, in France, about A.D. 1116.

This Order of monks was introduced into England about the year 1128, and the first monastery of this rule that was here founded was at Waverly, in Surrey. Foundations of monks of this Order soon spread over the country, and almost all, if not all, were of the twelfth century.

The magnificent and older monasteries of the Benedictine Order were for the most part placed in cities and towns; those of the Cistercian Order in the country, choice being made of uncultivated wastes in solitary places. The buildings were structures far inferior to those of the Benedictines, and the Cistercian monasteries were, I believe, invariably dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. At the suppression there were in this country, of the Cistercian Order, thirty-six of the greater monasteries, and thirty-nine of the lesser. The latter were dissolved before the former. The Benedictine may be considered as the aristocratic and learned Order; the Cistercian as a middle class Order, not so learned in book-lore as tillers of the ground with their own hands—as the great farmers of the age. The inmates of the Cistercian abbeys have, indeed, been described as farmers rather than monks.

Both Orders were precursors of civilization, the former in cities and towns, the latter in the country; and in those ages of violence, rapine, and plunder, these monasteries afforded a refuge to many who were tired, wearied out, and disgusted with the general turbulence which prevailed, and who fled to them as from the world.

Of the three great Warwickshire monasteries of this Order, this at Merevale was founded the earliest, viz., in 1149, that at Combe A.D. 1150, and that at Stoneley A.D. 1154. There are architectural remains both at Combe and at Stoneley of the original buildings constructed at the founding of those monasteries. There are none such at Merevale. There is, however, reason to believe that the present site of the conventual church is as it was originally; and that, however it may have been rebuilt or altered, it shows no indication of having been enlarged from the original plan.

In 1149, the fourteenth year of the reign of Stephen, Robert, Earl Ferrers, grandson of Henry de Ferrers, who came over with William, Duke of Normandy, at the time of the Norman invasion, "having," as Sir William Dugdale saith, "a reverend esteem of the Cistercian monks, which in his time began to multiply in England, made choice of this mountainous and woody desert (as fitted for solitude and devotion) to found therein a monastery of that Order."

The endowment of the founder consisted of that part of the forest of Arden called the Outwood, theretofore a member of

Grendon; of the manor of Overton, since called Orton-on-the-Hill, and of some possessions in other places. By subsequent benefactors, viz., Gerald de Simesi, Walter de Camule, Ralph de Baskerville, and Pain de Baskerville, all of whose grants were ratified by a charter of King Henry II., the granges of More-barn, and other places, the churches of Orton-on-the-Hill, with the chapels of Grendon, Twycross, Gopsall, and Baxterly, were added to the original endowment. Other lands and possessions and divers places were subsequently granted to this monastery by different benefactors.

The annual value of the possessions of this house, as ascertained by the Survey (26 Henry VIII., A.D. 1535), was £254. 1s. 8d. It was surrendered to the king's use in 1539, when pensions for life were granted to the abbot, sub-prior, and eight other monks, to the amount of £84. 7s. 8d., hardly a third of the annual value.

The Register of the Abbey of Merevale, which in the early part of the seventeenth century was in the possession of Richard Chamberlain, Esquire, is not now to be found, and the historical notices we possess of the abbey are few. We know the names of few abbots only besides William Arnold the last, who surrendered this abbey on the suppression, viz.:—Abbot Thomas, A.D. 1421; Abbot John Ruggeley, 12 Henry VI.; Abbot John Freeman, elected A.D. 1463, on the resignation of Abbot Ruggeley; Abbot Thomas Arnold, 23 Henry VIII., 1534; Abbot William Arnold, 26 Henry VIII.

On the 6th of July, 1309, the king, Edward II., was at this abbey, as appears from his itinerary, as follows:—July the 1st he was at Chester; 2nd at Wiz Manban (Nantwich); 4th, Heywood; 5th, Litchfield; 6th, Merivall; 7th, Coventry; 8th and 9th, Towcester.*

Whilst here on the 6th of July, the privy seal was affixed to certain documents.

On the 6th of September, 1503, Henry VII. was at "Meryvall" Abbey, as that fact is noticed in the privy purse expenses of that monarch.

In 1535 the value of the possessions belonging to this monastery amounted annually to upwards of £200., which, for a while, and for a while only, secured it from the fate of the smaller monasteries, the revenues of which were under £200. a year; but in 1539 it was suppressed with the greater monasteries.

It is much to be regretted that we do not know what became of the register of this abbey. In the early part of the seventeenth century, it was seen and quoted from by the historian of Leicestershire, and the historian of Warwickshire, Sir William Dugdale. The register of Combe is likewise lost, but the register of Stoneley

* *The Itinerary of King Edward the Second*, compiled by the Rev. Chas. Henry Hartshorne, M.A. Private distribution. MDCCCLXI.

is still existing. This is a work compiled in the fourteenth century by Thomas de Pipewell, Abbot of Stoneley, and contains not only a transcript of the charters and gifts made to that Abbey, but also "Acta Abbatum," an account of the lives of the abbots of that monastery up to the fourteenth century.

But if the register or cartulary of Merevale be at present lost to us (and it may at some day or other be brought to light), we have perhaps of this abbey a more copious inventory of the furniture and goods belonging to it at the suppression, than of any other abbey. It does not, however, appear to have been sumptuously, but rather poorly furnished.

The goods in the church (which I shall bye-and-bye show must have been a structure of considerable architectural interest and beauty) comprised a sculptured reredos, there called "a table of alabaster," a pair of organs, six altars with images, six gravestones with brasses on them, and other effects, including the glass in the windows, valued at £4. 11s. I wish I could procure the fragments which remain of the window glass at that price. You will see those fragments to-morrow.

The vestrie contained the vestments, of different kinds, valued at £6. 9s.

The cloister and chapter-house (for we learn from the account that there was a cloister, which was not always the case) contained twenty-eight panes of painted glass; this was valued at 5s. There was also a laver of metal and lead, valued at £2. I shall be able to show you to-morrow where this laver was placed; it was a little eastward of the door of the refectory.

We next come to the refectory, the only portion of the abbey, except the chapel of the gate-house, of which the walls exist. This is called in the inventory "The Hall." When you see it to-morrow you will perhaps exclaim, It must have been a noble room. In truth it was; but what was the furniture? To quote from the inventory:—It. 3 tables and seven forms. It. 2 cupboards, the whole valued at 3s. 4d. Then comes the buttery, the goods in which were valued at 2s. 6d.

Then comes the chief parlour, which I take to designate the abbot's lodgings. The goods in this are valued at £1. 6s. 8d. We have next the dormitories, viz.:—the inner chamber, the great old chamber, the chamber next the old chamber, the chamber called the Breddones, and the white chamber.

All the furniture in the five chambers, including feather-beds, mattresses, blankets, bolsters, coverlids, and other furniture (for I am not going into minute particulars), is valued at £3. 11s. The furniture in the kitchen, comprising pots, dishes, and so forth, is valued at £2. 1s. 8d. That in the larder at 2s., that in the brew-house at £2. 16s., in the malthouse at 14s. 4d., in the bakehouse at 3s. 4d. I omit the farm buildings, live and dead stock, both here

and at New House Grange, except that six drawing oxen were valued at £5., and four score sheep at 1s. 8d. each.

The plate sold was 47 ounces, producing £8. 12s. 4d., whilst 132 ounces of gilt plate, and 26 ounces of white plate remained unsold.

Four bells remaining, valued at £40. The inventory concludes as follows:—

"Mm. There remayneth all the houses and edifices of the scite of the said late mon. the glass yron in the windowes, pavements, and vi gravestones in the churche the rofe slatte pavements, and glasse in the cloyst and glasse in the chapit house excepted and soulde."

"Mm. the seid honourable Lord Ferres were put in possession to or. Sovtraign Lord the Kyng's use of the cite of xvth day of October, in the xxx yere of or. said Sovaign Lorde Kyng Henry VIII."

In the 32nd Henry VIII., A.D. 1541, nearly 400 years after the foundation of this abbey, the site and great part of the possessions thereof were granted by the king to one of the same family as the founder, namely, to Sir Walter Devereux, Knight, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, and to the heirs male of his body. Which Walter disposed thereof to Sir Walter Devereux, Knight, his younger son; for it was he, saith Sir William Dugdale, "that patched up some part of the ruins here and resided thereon as I have heard."

From this time we know little of the state of the buildings, except that in the last century there was an advertisement, which I have seen, offering for sale the ashlar stone from the ruins for building purposes.

About the year 1765, a century ago, Mr. Cradock, of Gumley, a well known literary character of that period, and an F.S.A., wrote the following remarks on this abbey:—

"We made a considerable stay at Merevale, a place always rendered more agreeable to me than my wife, for I had an excellent library to refer to, and some management of the garden ground; but it was to some rather dull, for I must confess on a close survey the whole routine of the interior did not a little savour of the Nunnery or the Monastery."

"During one of my longer abodes there, I received a letter from Lord Leicester, a learned antiquary, relative to an ancestor of his who was buried in the churchyard near the Old Abbey, in which he was pleased to enumerate many family particulars. 'He was (says his lordship), according to our records, deposited under a very large stone in an Ox's hide, at so many feet from the wall of the corner,' mentioning the exact distances from the ancient documents, 'and I should take it as a very particular favour (he adds) if you could obtain permission to make an accurate examination.' I accordingly applied to Mrs. Stratford, and went with

her full consent with a crow and spade, and was attended by the clerk and sexton, and a few select friends, who anxiously awaited the result. We almost immediately struck upon the corner of an immense stone, not far from the surface, and at the precise distance that had been pointed out. The lower end had considerably sunk, but I hesitated to proceed further, for it appeared to be a service of danger, as no faculty had been obtained from the Ecclesiastical Court, and I was legally informed afterwards that the Bishop of the diocese should be previously applied to, before any process in taking up such a corpse for examination could possibly be permitted. I informed Lord Leicester of all particulars, but various occurrences afterwards interfering, I believe his Lordship's ancestor still remains safely and quietly deposed, *statu quo*, in the ox's hide."*

No information is given to us by Mr. Cradock as to where he attempted to discover the founder's remains, whether in the churchyard of the now parish church, formerly the chapel of the gatehouse, or amongst the ruins of the abbey. The founder was probably buried in the chapter house, the site of which I shall point out to you to-morrow, and which was undisturbed in more recent excavations.

In 1849, some fifteen years ago, the foundations of the abbey church, the site of which was used as a stack-yard, and which had long since been covered with greensward, were exposed to view in different parts, by excavations then made under the superintendence of Mr. Clutton, a celebrated London architect, and which excavations were sufficient to enable the whole of the ground-plan of the church to be traced out. Like other abbey churches of the Cistercian order, the plan was plain and simple—a long narrow nave, with narrow aisles, two short transepts, and a short choir. Though the structure appeared to have been rebuilt, either entirely or principally, in the fourteenth century, the original ground plan of the Norman church did not seem to have been altered; a continuous foundation wall or footing showed on what the piers of the arches dividing the nave from the aisles rested. I do not find, from Mr. Clutton's account, that any fragments of Norman mouldings were discovered; those mouldings and details that were discovered were of the fourteenth century. The entire length of the church was 230 feet, the width of the nave 28 feet; of the aisles 15 feet each; the length of the transepts from north to south was 88 feet, the width 28 feet; the length of the choir was 40 feet, the width 21 feet. Some walls to the south of the choir seemed to point out the site of the vestry. I believe some fine base mouldings were discovered. It is to be regretted that these are now covered, they might furnish a key to the chapel of the gatehouse as it now is. The excavations

* *Literary and Miscellaneous Memoirs*, by J. Cradock, Esq., M.A., F.S.A. 1826.

in 1849 did not extend beyond the church and walls of the vestry. This is to be regretted.

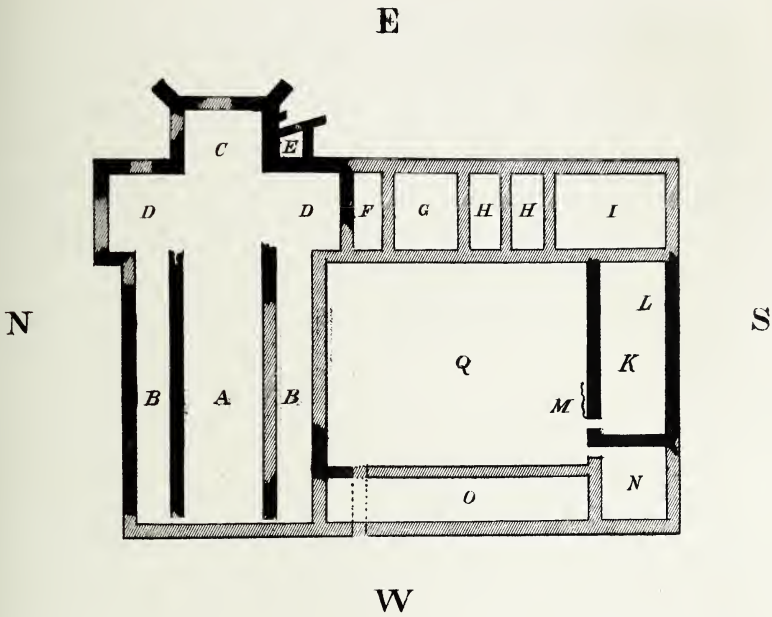
In my plan of the church and conventual, buildings, I have been obliged to make some portions conjectural, though I have no doubt as to the site of some of the buildings, viz., the narrow room or mortuary chamber adjoining the south transept, next to this the chapter house, then one or two narrow apartments, and then the abbot's lodgings. The foundation walls of all these lie at present undiscovered. Southward of the church was the refectory or dining hall, a rather noble room, constructed in the fourteenth century. It was entered near the west end through the north wall; near to this entrance was the monks' lavatory. In the south wall of the refectory was the pulpit, a portion of which still remains. At the west end of the refectory was the buttery, and next to that the kitchen; the space between the kitchen and the church was occupied by offices below and dormitories above. The brewhouse, bakehouse, and other offices would be detached probably near the kitchen. The entrance into the cloister court would probably be under the dormitory near the church. I will not weary you with further details.

The close round the abbey was bounded by stone walls. Westward of the abbey, at the distance perhaps of 200 yards, was the gatehouse, of which we have no remains; and near to this was the Chapel of our Lady, called also the Chapel of the Gatehouse—now the church of the district, which is, I believe, a peculiar and extra parochial.

Now, a chapel at, or annexed to, or near the gatehouse, was not an essential part of the buildings of a monastery, but we often find it described, and, near the ruins of some monasteries, remains of it. The chief purpose to which it was applied, was the performance of early service for the benefit of the labourers and servants connected with the monastery.

At Chertsey this chapel was described as "*Capella super portam*," "the chapel over the gatehouse." Over the gateway at Barking was a chapel of the Holy Rood. At Furness Abbey, a chapel adjoins the principal gatehouse on the east side of it, but does not actually form part of it. The gatehouse at Malling Abbey, Kent, has a chapel attached to it on the east side. In the charters of the endowments of the Priory of Finchale, mention is made of "*Fundacio Cantarie ad Portam de Fynchall*," *i.e.*, the foundation of a chantry in the chapel of the gatehouse there.

An endowment was also made to the monks of Merevale in 1358 of a messuage and one yard land, perhaps some thirty acres, at Bentley, to find fifteen tapers in the "chapell of our Ladie," near the gate of the abbey. Whether these were hearse lights, or burnt before the image of the Blessed Virgin, or on the altar or altars, we have no information. It appears, however, that in the



Site of Merevale Abbey.

A Nave of Church
BB Aisles
C Choir
DD Transepts
E Vestry

Of these, portions of the Foundation Walls only remain, coloured black.

F Slyppe or Mortuary Chapel
G Site of Chapter House
H, H } Small Apartments
I Site of Abbot's Lodgings

The Walls of the above are conjectural.

K Refectory

Of this the North and South Walls are standing.

L Remains of Refectory Pulpit
M Remains of Lavatory, near Refectory Door
N Site of Kitchen, Buttery, etc.
O Offices with Dormitories over
P Probable Entrance into Cloister Court
Q Cloister Court or Cemetery Garth

middle of the fourteenth century, A.D. 1361, pilgrimages were made to this chapel, perhaps to some particular image, and that a large number of people of both sexes resorted thither.

The Chapel of the Gatehouse appears to have been originally constructed of a larger size than usual; and, from the construction I should imagine it to have been built in the latter part of the thirteenth century, either in the reign of Henry III., or that of Edward I. It consisted of a nave and aisles—each of the latter divided from the nave by two pointed arches—and a chancel. The latter is gone, the aisles have been demolished, and the ancient nave alone forms a kind of ante-chapel to the present church. But now comes the singularity of the structure; for eastward of the present nave and aisles is a nave and aisles constituting the greater portion of the present church.

The piers and arches of the nave and the north aisle are of late fifteenth century work, whilst the south aisle and the east window of the nave are of rich and chaste fourteenth century work. The east window is peculiarly interesting; the jambs and architrave are well and boldly moulded, but the tracery of the window, though the mullions are moulded on the face, appears of a transitional character, and I should ascribe it to the reign of Edward the Third, or to early in the reign of Richard the Second. It is a structure worthy of the most minute and careful examination. My own opinion is that, after the suppression of the monastery, portions of the conventual church were taken down and built up hither, and that the fine east window was originally the east window of the conventual church.

For we have not, as I shall point out to you, or some of you, to-morrow, all the architectural details and arrangements we should have had if this portion of the structure had been originally designed and built here. We have no defined chancel; the roof does not fit, being too narrow in width; the buttresses do not exhibit that finish we might reasonably expect; and, if I remember right, there is an absence of base mouldings. But the want of these will be pointed out to-morrow. On the other hand, we can form a fair estimate of the beauty of the abbey church as rebuilt in the fourteenth century, and probably by that abbot, whoever he was, whose effigy now exists in Orton-on-the-Hill; perhaps removed thither from the conventual church after the suppression.

There are details in the Chapel of the Gatehouse which were evidently removed from the conventual church—the very curious ancient wooden loft or gallery of the fifteenth century, of which we find no mention in the inventory of the goods of the abbey, but which was probably the organ loft; the ancient painted glass, part of that in the east window being late in the fourteenth century, and portion of a Jesse window; that in the north aisle being mostly of the fifteenth century.

Then we have some of the monuments removed hither from the abbey church: the brass of a knight and his lady, of the age of Henry the Sixth; the sculptured effigies on a high tomb of a knight and his lady of the same period; and the mutilated but highly interesting effigy of an earlier period.

This latter is the effigy of a knight clad in a hauberk or shirt of ringed mail, to which gloves of the same kind of mail are attached; the legs are protected by chauses or pantaloons of the same description of mail, and over the whole is worn a long surcoat or sleeveless garment of linen, the skirts of which reach nearly to the feet; whilst affixed to the left arm is an exceedingly long heater-shaped shield, not less, I think, than three feet nine inches in length. It is, indeed, the length of the surcoat and of the shield that enables me to assign a proximate date to this effigy, the head and feet of which are gone. The period of the execution of this effigy I should consider as early in the thirteenth century, in the reign of John, or early in the reign of Henry III. It certainly is not the effigy of the founder. The register of the Abbey of Merevale might have thrown light upon this effigy, but unfortunately that is not to be found.

I think that this effigy is commemorative of the fourth William, Earl of Ferrers, who died A.D. 1254, and was buried in this Abbey of Merevale. His father, the third William, Earl Ferrers, who died 1247, married, in 1192, Agnes, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, who died nearly the same time as her husband; but where this worthy couple were buried (and he was a great and distinguished nobleman in his day) I have as yet been unable to ascertain.

The high tomb and effigies thereon of alabaster are, I think, those of John Handewell and Alice his wife; and, in an inscription in a north window, were thus described:—"*Orate pro animabus Johis Handewell quondam pretoris Couentrie et Alicie uxoris eius qui istam fenestram unacum opere armato ubi tumulatur tumulo de alabastro in partibus borealibus et sumptibus suis propriis fieri fecit quorum animabus miseretur Deus Amen.*" This John Handwell or Handewill, I take to have been one of the bailiffs or sheriffs of Coventry; as I do not find his name amongst the list of mayors, and there are only two sheriffs whose names are preserved of the fifteenth century, in the middle of which the bailiffs, by royal grant, A.D. 1451, first appear as sheriffs. I think, also, the word *Pretor* must here signify sheriff.

There is one more effigy I have to remark upon, and that is the recumbent effigy at Orton-on-the-Hill. This I take to be the effigy of one of the abbots of this monastery, one whose name is lost in oblivion, but the one who rebuilt a great part at least of the abbey church and the refectory parallel with it; for this effigy is one of the same period as that in which those works were

executed. It is the effigy of a Cistercian monk, habited in the *Cappa Clausa* or close cowl, without sleeves, of that Order, with the *Caputium* or hood attached to the mozetta, a plain kind of cape thrown back on the shoulders, with the *Biretum*, or close-fitting skull cap or coif, on the head; and, as the sepulchral representation of a Cistercian monk, is I believe, unique in this country.

I have now to draw to a conclusion. Whatever we may think of the justice or injustice done in the suppression of the monasteries in this country, we may fairly consider the results.

As far as the appropriation of churches in large towns and populous places, and the services of which were performed by vicars, the result has been most unsatisfactory; the appropriations in most cases on the suppression having been granted to the laity, the vicarial tithes only having been allotted to the clergy.

On the other hand, the immense possessions in land held by the monasteries, and so locked up in mortmain, being granted out in parcels amongst the laity, soon became subdivided; and hence arose in the reign of Elizabeth that mass of landed gentry, who, holding a middle class between the nobility and those below them, soon became the most important link in the Constitution of the realm between classes of all conditions and grades.

At the conclusion of Mr. Bloxam's paper, Mr. C. H. Bracebridge, of Atherstone Hall, rose to propose a vote of thanks to the readers of the papers, which were full of acumen, intelligence, and usefulness. He thought that societies of that kind were of great utility, and scarcely second to many others for the promotion of valuable religious and political objects. He could not agree with a most benevolent man, a friend of his, who said that he had no time to occupy himself with the past, and would rather devote himself to the enjoyment of the present, or make his principal occupation a contemplation of what might be the social state of his neighbours and friends in the future. He (Mr. B.) could not understand the pleasure or wisdom of contemplating what is to be without giving due attention to what is and what has been. By means of such societies as that, and such papers as had just been read, they had an opportunity of finding out objects of interest around them, and they obtained an enlarged knowledge of many historical matters bearing upon their own times. Not only were such papers as those to which they had just listened useful upon the occasions on which they were produced, but they were sifted down into reports and became volumes of important information, which were handed down for reference, and suggested subjects for further research. He had, therefore, great pleasure in moving that the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Bloxam and the gentlemen by whom papers had been prepared and read.

Mr. Pilgrim seconded the resolution, which was most cordially adopted.

Archdeacon Fearon proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee. He said that he had felt the advantage himself of a visit from this Society to Loughborough. A Paper, which was read by the late lamented Canon James, describing the architectural merits of the Church of that town, as well as some interesting points in its history, had been, he believed, of considerable effect in promoting the Church's restoration. Societies of this kind, by the studies and antiquarian researches which they encouraged, had a refining influence upon the mind. Not only that, but we could not properly appreciate our present advanced state, or be thankful for it, without an occasional reference to the past. The description of the early days of Hinckley under the sway of the Norman Barons, to which they had just listened with so much interest in the paper read by Mr. Thompson, could not but bring to their minds through how many stages, conducted by wisdom and prudence, our ancestors had amended their forms of government, until the constitution under which we had now the happiness to live was consolidated. The last time he had the honour of addressing an audience in that room was when invited to give a lecture to their Mechanics' Institute, on the improved sanitary and educational state of the great body of the people in these days. The hope of future social progress, and of an indefinite improvement in all that elevates human life, is quite consistent with a desire to investigate the works of our ancestors, in order that we may benefit by their teaching as well as profit by their errors. Although we live in an age of such advanced scientific information, there are many subjects in which we are as yet but on the threshold of knowledge. Probably the day will come when future antiquarians will be prying into our works and ways as we are now into the works of those who have gone before us. That they will have outstripped us we cannot doubt. Even the gas, which is cheering our room now, will, as some suspect, be superseded before long, by some plan for producing a more luminous atmosphere. What if some future Bloxam should in the latter days be amusing his audience by holding up before them one of these gas standards, while he explained that these were the kind of things with which those poor barbarians lighted their rooms. If such an one should arise, Mr. Chairman, continued the Archdeacon, I hope his hearers will be edified as we have been by our friend to-day; and that he will be supported by as active a committee as that to whom I now propose a vote of thanks, and who have secured for us so kind and hospitable a reception at Hinckley.

The Rev. J. H. Hill had great pleasure in seconding the proposition of the Archdeacon of Leicester.

The Rev. E. Tower acknowledged the vote of thanks.

Mr. James Thompson proposed, and Mr. Bloxam seconded, a vote of thanks to the Rev. The President, which that gentleman acknowledged.

Wednesday, July 20th, 1864.

THE EXCURSION.

The first place visited was Mancetter.

From Hinckley to Mancetter the drive for the greater part of the way is along the old Watling Street. The drive occupied about an hour, and then the elegant tower and spire of Witherley came in sight on the right hand, and the old tower of Mancetter (near the site of the "Manduessedum" of the Romans) was visible among the foliage on the left. At a short distance from it the whole party alighted. Passing through the churchyard, they visited the ancient Manor House, in which Glover, the martyr (one of the victims in Mary's reign) lived and lay concealed. In one of the principal rooms, two transverse beams in the ceiling, boldly moulded, indicate the date, which Mr. Bloxam said was about the year 1480. The beams correspond both in moulding and general form with those in Crosby Hall, London. The house was of timber framework. In the roof, approached by a trap-door in a closet, is the place where the martyr was hidden when dragged away by his persecutors and taken to Coventry, where he was burnt as a heretic. When the house had been examined, the church was visited. It is a building of the latter part of the fourteenth century, with some work of the early part of the fifteenth century. The north aisle, Mr. Bloxam thought, was built by the same Abbot who erected Merevale Abbey, and whose effigy would be seen at Orton, but of this there was no record, as the register was missing. The interior is spacious, consisting of nave, aisles, and chancel. There are high square pews, and galleries above. In the east window Mr. Bloxam pointed out fragments of glass of the fourteenth century. Near the Altar Table is a book desk, to which are chained several ancient volumes, including the Paraphrases of Erasmus. The font was missing, and on enquiry proved to be preserved in an adjoining garden, which led to a strong expression of opinion that it should be at once replaced in the church. This structure is one that would well bear thorough but judicious restoration.

MEREVALE HALL AND ABBEY.

The excursionists, continuing their route along the Watling Street, drove through Atherstone to the mansion of W. S. Dugdale, Esq.,

at Merevale Park, a handsome structure, from designs by Smirke. The party descended on the north side of the hall, and proceeded to the ancient Chapel of the Gate House, which, with its contents, was described by Mr. Bloxam, commencing with the organ gallery, which is elaborately carved, and is supposed to have been executed in the same century and taken from the old Abbey. On entering the church, on the left hand side, Mr. Bloxam called attention to the most singular monument in Warwickshire—that of Handwell, who was alluded to in the paper read the previous evening. The armour was of the time of Henry VI., and its only singularity was the length of the surcoat and shield, and in respect of the latter it might be remembered that the longer the shield the greater was the antiquity of the effigy. On the opposite side was an effigy, commemorative, in Mr. Bloxam's opinion, of the fourth William Earl of Ferrers, who died in 1254, another of the oldest sepulchral monuments in Warwickshire. This effigy was formerly in the Abbey Church, Merevale. It is an effigy of much interest; it now consists, however, (as described by Mr. Bloxam) of little more than the torso or trunk, the head and lower portions of the legs having been destroyed. The armour consists of the hawberk or tunic of mail, with chausses or close-fitting pantaloons of the same; the hands are protected by mufflers, the fingers not being divided, the right arm and hand are lying on the breast, the left hand appears beneath the shield, hanging down on the left side. Over the hawberk is worn the long sleeveless surcoat of linen, belted round the waist with a narrow strap and buckle. Another strap or guige, somewhat broader than the former, to which the shield is attached, crosses diagonally over the right shoulder to the left side. The shield on the left side is unusually long—not less than 3 feet 9 inches in length—extending from the shoulder to the knee; it is not flat on the face, but curved or convex without and concave within. In outline it is heater-shaped. The position of the sword is somewhat singular, being on the right side, and fastened to a belt crossing the body diagonally from the right hip to just below the left hip. This effigy bears a resemblance to two of, apparently, the most ancient of the sepulchral effigies in the Temple Church, London, which likewise exhibit the long shield as in this, and much the same arrangement of the drapery of the surcoat. Mr. Bloxam said this effigy considered by itself he should have taken to have been executed about thirty years earlier than the time of the death of the fourth William Lord Ferrers, in 1254, but there was no one else to whom he could assign it. The fine east window, which was, Mr. Bloxam thought, the great east window of the original Abbey Church, contained some grand specimens of painted glass, the five centre lights being of the same character and date as that at Mancetter. The upper part of the window was of the fifteenth century, but

those of the aisles were of a later period. The conventional arrangement of the light in the east window, representing the descent from the Cross, was cursorily described by Mr. Bloxam, who also called attention to the goodness of the roof (date about the fifteenth century) and arches, although there were many evidences of the place having been built up from the ruins of the Abbey, upon which point some excavations made fourteen or fifteen years ago had thrown much light. The painted glass throughout the chapel was highly interesting, and required hours of study even to discover, much less describe, its prominent and beautiful peculiarities. In the lower compartment of the stained windows on the south side was a curious representation of an organist, and Mr. Bloxam was of opinion that it had been taken from the window of the original organ loft. The next window to it contained the Abbey arms. There was a curious monument in the chancel, which reminded him very much of Shakespeare's in Stratford Church, and there was a brass monument close by which had been said by Nicholls to belong to a monk, but this was incorrect, as it did not bear the effigy of a monk. A curious piece of oak carving, of fifteenth century work, was pointed out, which was probably intended as a representation of St. Michael and the angels, and which also shewed an emblem of the blessed Virgin. It appeared to have formed part of the top of a doorway in the Abbey, which, like all establishments of the kind founded by the Cistercians, was dedicated to the blessed Virgin. Near the doorway were the remains of some stone coffins of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; they had, no doubt, been used in the burial of the remains of some of the inmates of the Abbey. On returning to the exterior of the edifice, Mr. Bloxam said there was sufficient evidence in the window scrolls, the sills, and buttresses, to prove that the present church was fragmentary, and erected out of the old materials, most probably, of the monastery after its suppression. Once more alluding to the glorious old east window, its base mouldings, and the merging of the Decorated into the Perpendicular style of tracery, Mr. Bloxam repeated his opinion that it had been the grand east window of the Abbey church when it was rebuilt in the fourteenth century. On the north side a different style of architecture presented itself; there were the bold corvettoes of the fourteenth century, and the buttresses were more complete, having been taken down with greater care. The original site of the monastery was then pointed out, the foundations being clearly discernible, as well as the chapter house, mortuary chamber and cemetery, abbot's lodgings and refectory, the spot being fixed on where it was supposed the founder was buried, and where also the monks were interred in that ancient cemetery. That portion of the building in which Henry VII. was lodged, not far eastward of the abbot's rooms, was also described. Part of the old Abbey

has become a fold yard and homestead, and where the principal apartment was is now a garden planted with potatoes. In the latter part is a splendid arch and a stone pulpit, from whence lessons from Scripture were wont to be read to those assembled in the hall. This magnificent room was probably built by the abbot, whose effigy was to be seen at Orton-on-the-Hill, and who did so much for Mancetter Church; but as regarded their knowledge of that, the loss of the register mentioned by Dugdale was, said Mr. Bloxam, irreparable. Richard Chamberlain had it, but whether it was now in the collection of Sir Richard Philips, of Middle Hill, Worcestershire, he had not yet ascertained. Mr. Bloxam having pointed out the site of the kitchen and buttery, the bugle once more warned the company to return to their conveyances, in which they were driven to

ATHERSTONE,

Where luncheon was provided at the Red Lion Hotel. After a cursory inspection of the church, the party were received at Atherstone Hall by Mr. Charles Holte Bracebridge, who invited the Society to inspect some objects of antiquarian interest, and to hear him give a brief description of that portion of the Battle of Bosworth which was fought close to Atherstone. Among the noticeable articles pointed out by Mr. Bracebridge were two flags, formerly belonging to the Janaissaries, some interesting stained glass (*temp.* James I.) with armorial bearings, &c., brought from Brereton Hall, Cheshire, which belonged to Mr. Bracebridge's ancestors, and of which Queen Elizabeth laid the foundation stone. The glass bore representations of the Earls of Chester, beginning with the first earl, who was the husband of Lady Godiva. Attention was called to a chimneypiece of the time of Henry VII., which had been brought from the "old Bracebridge Place," Kingsbury Hall, and which was surrounded by carved work from St. George's Chapel, which formerly stood near one of the gates of Coventry. The time allotted to Atherstone having terminated the party were unable to hear the whole of Mr. Bracebridge's remarks upon the Battle of Bosworth.

SHEEPY.

The chief attraction at Sheepy was a remarkable effigy resting under an external arch, in the western wall of the church. Mr. Bloxam described it as the effigy of a layman attired in civic costume, and probably of the fourteenth century.

ORTON-ON-THE-HILL.

Several interesting monuments claimed attention in this church; one of a knight of the fourteenth century; another, an incised slab

marked with chalice and missal, commemorative of a priest; but perhaps the most curious effigy in the whole county is found in Orton Church. Orton-on-the-Hill was anciently a chapel belonging to Merevale Abbey, and the effigy in question represents a Cistercian Monk—one of the abbots, Mr. Bloxam was inclined to think, of Merevale, and probably removed from the Abbey Church of Merevale to Orton on the suppression and destruction of the Abbey Church. It represents him in the cappa clausa, or cowl, with the mozetta and hood attached to it, thrown back over the shoulders, whilst on the head is worn the coif, or close-fitting skull-cap, called the biretum. Over the head is an ogee canopy, which refers the date to the fourteenth century. This effigy is, Mr. Bloxam said, as far as his knowledge extended, perfectly unique.

TWYCROSS.

THE party were received here by the Vicar, the REV. ANDREW BLOXAM, brother to Mr. M. H. Bloxam. The latter gentleman at once proceeded to describe the glass of the east window, for which the church is famous. The upper portion of the glass—that occupying the head of the window—is of the fourteenth century; the portion contained in the lights (with one slight exception which will be pointed out) was removed from *La Sainte Chapelle* in Paris, during the French Revolution, and purchased by Sir W. Waller, who presented it to King William the Fourth. His Majesty gave a portion to Earl Howe, who placed it in Twycross Church, where it is now preserved. It is supposed to be work of the early part of the thirteenth century, about 1225. Mr. Bloxam drew special attention to this glass, as exhibiting admirable specimens of ancient art, which we might be content to imitate. Its silvery, chaste, and harmonious tones constituted it some of the finest glass preserved in this country. The subjects depicted as they meet the eye of the spectator looking east, thus,

1	5	9
2	6	10
3	7	11
4	8	12

are:—

1. General judgment. Our Saviour sitting with a book in His hand appealing to the Prince of the power of the air to hear what he has to say against the individual rising out of purgatory for judgment.

2. A kneeling figure with the tonsure, an angel near.

3. The woman with the bloody flux touching our Saviour's clothing while he is addressing the multitude.

4. The widow casting her mite into the Treasury of the Temple.
5. Modern glass of the sixteenth century, subject unknown.
6. Presentation of our Saviour in the Temple: Simeon and Hannah.
7. Taking down from the Cross.
8. Two spies bearing the bunches of grapes.
9. The father bringing his lunatic son to the Saviour to be healed.
10. Pentitent Magdalen.
11. Moses with the Tables.
12. King Solomon.

The following notes upon the Registers of Tywcross Church have been kindly supplied by the Rev. A. Bloxam.

The first church register commences in 1585.

(Registers were first ordered to be kept in the reign of Henry VIII., in 1538.)

From 1647 to 1650 the register is deficient.

Roger Porter, the Vicar of Orton-cum-Capella Twycross, and Goppeshall, was ejected by the Parliamentary Sequestrators, in A.D. 1645, but restored again after the Civil Wars in 1660, and died in 1694.

Note in the first register:—

July 28, A.D. 1689.

Collected in the Chapelries of Twicross and Gopshall, in the parish of Orton-on-the-Hill, in the Co. of Leicester, towards the Reparation and Relief of the poor distressed Protestant parties, who were enforced to flie into this Kingdome of England for the preservation of their liberties and lives from Ireland, the sum of £0. 2s. 1d.

ROGER PORTER, Vicar of Orton.
JOSEPH BEADMAN } Churchwardens.
JOHN ARGYLE }

From 1709 to 1714 the Registers are in the handwriting and with the signature of *William Paul*, vicar, who suffered at Tyburn for taking the side of the Stuarts.

In Register No. 2 is a list of money collected for Briefs, beginning 1732 and ending 1738, for the rebuilding of churches, losses by fire, &c.; also in 1743 and in 1752, collected for the propagation of the Gospel, £1. 15s. 6d. This list is here given:—

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF TWYCROSS, IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER.

Money collected for Briefs.

		s.	d.
1732. Dec.	3.—Rebuilding of Dudley Church, Co. Worcester. Charge £2,097. and upwards	1	3
,,	17.—Rebuilding of Well Church, Co. Lincoln	1	11
1733. Jan.	14.—For Barton-upon-Humber. Loss by fire	1	8
,,	28.—For repairing of Aberbrothock harbour, in the Co. of Forfar, in Scotland. Charge £9,311. and upwards	1	9
Feb.	11.—For Austerfield, Co. Kent. Loss by fire, £1,500. and upwards	2	2
,,	25.—For Woodplumpton, Co. Lancaster. Loss by fire, £1,053, and upwards	1	11
March	16.—For Blandford Forum, Co. Dorset. Loss by fire (beside insurances), £83,348. and upwards £5.	1	8
April	29.—Rebuilding of Monmouth Church, in the Co. of Monmouth. Charge £4,497. and upwards	1	7
June	17.—Rebuilding of Severnby Church, Co. Lincoln. Charge £1,102. and upwards	2	9
Aug.	5.—For Whitfield, Co. Somerset. Loss by fire, charge £1,380. and upwards	2	0
,,	19.—For rebuilding of Conington Church, Co. Cambridge. Charge £1,050. and upwards	2	4
Sept.	16.—For North-Stoneham, Co. Southampton. Loss by fire £1,293 and upwards	0	10
Oct.	7.—For repairing of Mitchell Dean Church, in Co. Gloucester. Charge £1,056. and upwards	2	9
,,	14.—For Maddington, Co. Wilts. Loss by fire, charge £1,283. and upwards	0	5
Dec.	16.—For rebuilding Redmarley and Edengale Churches, in the Cos. of Worcester and Stafford. Charge £1,326. and upwards	1	7
1734. Jan.	27.—For rebuilding of Rufford Church, Co. Lancaster. Charge £1,165 and upwards	1	3
Feb.	10.—For rebuilding Chrisleton Church, Co. Chester. Charge £1,140. and upwards	1	4
,,	24.—For Erchfont, Co. Wilts. Loss by fire, charge £3,002. and upwards	1	8
March	10.—For Guilden Morden, Co. Cambridge. Loss by fire, £1,046. and upwards	1	2
April	7.—For Aylesbury, Co. Bucks. Loss by fire £3,670 and upwards	1	11
May	19.—For Onniley, Co. Stafford. Loss by fire £1,038. and upwards	1	6
July	7.—For rebuilding of Ealing Church, Co. Middlesex. Charge £3,000. and upwards	4	4

			s.	d.
1734.	Aug.	4.—For rebuilding of Gressingham Chapel, Co. Lancaster. Charge £1,110. and upwards....	2	5
	Sept.	15.—For rebuilding of North Meels Church, Co. Lancaster. Charge £1,292. and upwards	5	0
	Oct.	25.—For Barnwell, Co. Cambridge. Loss by fire £6,874. and upwards	16	2½
	Nov.	17.—For rebuilding All Saints Church, in the city of Worcester. Charge £1,944. and upwards..	1	6
	Dec.	15.—For Cottenham, Co. Cambridge. Loss by fire, charge £1,215. and upwards	0	11
1735.	Jan.	12.—For Epworth, Co. Lincoln. Loss by fire, charge £1,076. and upwards	2	1
	Feb.	9.—For rebuilding Machynleth Church, Co. Montgomery. Charge £1,835. and upwards	2	1½
	March	9.—For Poulton, Co. Lancaster. Loss by fire, £1,032. and upwards	0	8
	May	11.—For rebuilding South Thorsby Church, Co. Lincoln. Charge £1,000. and upwards.....	1	2
	June	15.—For Brampton, Co. Huntingdon. Loss by fire £1,348. and upwards.....	3	6
	Aug.	3.—For Presse, Co. Lancaster. Loss by fire, £1,379. and upwards	3	2
	Sept.	14.—For rebuilding of Shaw Chapel, Co. Lancaster. Charge £1,111. and upwards	2	2
	Nov.	9.—For Milton, Co. Cambridge. Loss by fire, £1,165., &c.	1	10
	Dec.	21.—For rebuilding of Llanarvon Church, Co. Denbigh. Charge £1,362. and upwards	1	3
1736.	Jan.	11.—For rebuilding of Norton Church, Co. Stafford. Charge £1,347. and upwards	2	2
	March	14.—For Tetsworth, Co. Oxford. Loss by fire, £1,440., &c.	1	6
	April	4.—For rebuilding East Stoke Church, Co. Nottingham. Charge £1,258. and upwards	0	7
	,,	18.—For Empsay, Co. York. Loss by fire, £1,549., &c.	0	7
	May	30.—For Cobham, Co. Surrey. Loss by fire, £1,658., &c.	2	2
	July	18.—For Royston, Co. Hertford. Loss by fire, £2,272., &c.	3	0
	Aug.	8.—For rebuilding of Walton-in-the-Woulds Church, Co. Leicester. Charge £1,136. and upwards.....	3	9
	,,	29.—For Swaffham Prior, Co. Cambridge. Loss by fire, £1,734., &c.....	1	11
	Sept.	12.—For Mobberly, Co. Chester. Loss by storm of hail, £1,905., &c.....	1	10
	Nov.	21.—For rebuilding of Pendle Church, Co. Lancaster. Charge £1,268., &c.	1	10

		s.	d.
1736. Dec.	19.—For rebuilding of Houghton Church, Co. Stafford. Charge £1,219., &c.	1	10
1737. March	6.—For Houghton Regis, Co. Bedford. Loss by fire, £1,494., &c.	0	9
,,	20.—For Castle Hayes, Co. Stafford. Loss by fire, £1,311., &c.	0	9
April	3.—For St. John, Wapping, Co. Middlesex. Loss by fire, £3,370., &c.	1	3
June	19.—Rebuilding of Blidworth Church, Co. Nottingham. Charge £1,247., &c.	1	6
July	17.—Rebuilding of Ravenstondale Church, Co. Westmoreland. Charge £1,504., &c.	0	10
Sept.	4.—Rebuilding of Measham Church, Co. Derby. Charge £1,059., &c.	0	6
,,	18.—For Puttenham, Co. Surrey. Loss by fire, £3,304., &c.	0	8
Oct.	3.—For Stoney Stratford, Co. Bucks. Loss by fire, £6,754., &c.	6	4
Dec.	4.—Rebuilding Preston Church, Co. Salop. Charge £1,076., &c.	0	9
1738. Jan.	15.—For Penokrych, Co. Stafford. Loss by fire, £1,128., &c.	1	0
,,	29.—Rebuilding Abton Church, Co. Salop. Charge £1,120., &c.	1	0
Feb.	26.—Repairing St. John Baptist Church, Coventry. Charge £2,527.	1	4½
April	7.—For Upchurch, Co. Kent. Loss by inundation, £4,290., &c.	4	8
June	11.—For Marshall, Co. Chester. Loss by fire, £1,063., &c.	1	6
July	9.—For rebuilding Ledbury Church, Co. Hereford. Charge £1,929., &c.	1	0
Aug.	6.—For Fairwell Church, Co. Stafford. Charge £1,002., &c.	1	2
Sept.	3.—For Dunsten and Dadington, Co. Oxford. Loss by a hailstorm, charge £1,080., &c.	1	6
Oct.	10.—For Ratcliffe, Co. Middlesex. Loss by fire, £4,145., &c.	4	0
,,	24.—For Wellingborough, Co. Northampton. Loss by fire, £25,987. and upwards	10	5
1743. May	8.—For Chillsworth, Co. Oxford. Loss by fire, £1,333., &c.	2	4
June	26.—Rebuilding Hunsingore Church, West Riding, Yorkshire. Charge £1,326., &c.	1	0
July	16.—Rebuilding Llangwin Church, Co. Denbigh. Charge £1,113., &c.	0	3
Sept.	12.—For Feversham Fishery, Co. Kent. Loss, £9,000., &c.	14	6

		s.	d.
1743. Sept. 18.	—For Cheam Church, Southwarth. Charge re-building £1,082., &c.	1	6
July 6, 1752.	—Collected for the Propagation of the Gospel, at Twycross .....£1.	15	6
April 29, 1781.	—For Sutton Ambo and Morland fires	9	7

GOPSALL.

Leaving Twycross, the party drove to Gopsall Hall, where they were most courteously received by the Earl and Countess Howe. The noble Earl conducted his numerous visitors through a beautiful suite of apartments into the picture gallery, where many fine specimens of the artist's skill delighted all present. On a sideboard were placed three magnificent salvers by the celebrated Benvenuto Cellini, and a chalice of great beauty and value now used in the private chapel of the Hall. In another part of the gallery the velvet cap in which Queen Adelaide was crowned attracted much notice; but the table around which the visitors mostly grouped themselves was that on which were placed copies of the first four folio editions of Shakspeare's Works, copies of thirteen of his plays printed in his lifetime, and one copy of the only three in existence of the first edition of the immortal poet's *Hamlet*. Near these were the gold chain and medal given by George the Third to Admiral Earl Howe, K.G., July, 1794; the boxes in which the freedom of the cities of London and Dublin were presented to the same distinguished naval commander; a Ghoorha knife, used in the India Mutiny of 1857; a scarce copy of Edward the Sixth's Prayer Book; King William the Third's pocket watch; the Chartulary of Whalley Abbey; and a book containing several letters written by Handel to Mr. Jennens, in 1744. It will be remembered that the great master composed his oratorio of *The Messiah* at Gopsall, the words being selected from Scripture by Mr. Jennens, the grandfather of the present Earl, and who built the mansion at Gopsall. Passing through the drawing into the dining room, a portion of the company were shown that part of the room in which Handel was accustomed to sit whilst engaged in his great work. In this apartment were portraits both of Handel and Mr. Jennens, and a more modern work of art, by Grant, namely, the portrait of the present Earl, presented to him by his Lordship's tenants. The noble lord led the way into the chapel, which is fitted up with cedar. The communion table is said to be composed of part of that very oak in which Charles the Second was concealed at Boscabel. A very fine painting of the Crucifixion of our Saviour, by Vandyke, is there preserved. In this chapel are shewn some of the Prayer Books in use during the time of the rebellion of

1745, in which the family then in possession of Gopsall, being Jacobins, had erased those portions of the prayers which related to the Hanoverian Royal Family—and to "King *George*." From this apartment, Earl Howe very courteously conducted his guests into the gardens, calling attention to the obelisk which Pope had erected to the memory of his mother, at Twickenham, whither at the sale of Pope's villa, Earl Howe having purchased the obelisk, had it conveyed to Gopsall, as he described it, in a coal barge. It bore an inscription which may be liberally translated thus: "Oh! Edith, the best of mothers, and the most charming of women, farewell!" The company were led beneath the shade of some splendid cedars of Lebanon, and some richly laden mulberry trees, into the fruit gardens, of whose contents the noble lord kindly invited all who felt inclined to partake. On their return to the mansion, Countess Howe begged that the party would repair to the entrance hall, where iced wines and claret cups were prepared in abundance for the refreshment of the wearied, dusty, and thirsty travellers. This hospitality was extended to all in a manner truly characteristic of the noble possessors of Gopsall, who, previous to the departure of the excursionists, took leave of them at the principal entrance, where Archdeacon Fearon, in a short speech, expressed the delight which all felt at having been permitted to include Gopsall in their present tour. Having thanked his Lordship for this additional mark of his sympathy with and courtesy to Leicestershire men, the Archdeacon, in the name of the company, congratulated Lord and Lady Howe on the good news they had that morning received of Mr. William Curzon having obtained the rank of major in the army, which he joined during the Crimean campaign.

Earl Howe briefly replied, thanking the Archdeacon for the eloquence and kind feeling with which he had alluded to himself and family. He was delighted to think that what little he had to show at Gopsall had afforded so much gratification to his Leicestershire friends, among whom he was born in that very house, and with whom he should always gladly wish to promote the welfare of every institution connected with this county. He was sorry that the Committee of the Architectural and Archæological Society had not allowed him, as he wished, to offer them the hospitality which one gentleman usually extended to others, but, at their particular desire, he had abstained from pressing that point, and could only say, in bidding them good-day, that should they ever again come into that neighbourhood, he would gladly welcome them once more to Gopsall.

The excursionists then resumed the seats in their carriages, and soon after passing through Market Bosworth, the party for Hinckley, and that for Leicester, exchanged civilities on parting, and journeyed homewards.

September 26th, 1864.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Letters were read from Earl Howe and Viscount Curzon, expressing the pleasure they derived from the Society's visit to Hinckley and the neighbourhood.

A letter was also read from the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, in which his Lordship stated his willingness to become a Patron of the Society.

After the transaction of some financial and general business, the following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: —The Rev. Charles Barrow, rector of Barwell; the Rev. George Packer, Birstall; and Mr. Robert H. Humberstone, Leicester.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By the Chairman: Manuscript memorials of Gartree Hundred, Leicestershire, profusely illustrated by pen and ink sketches of churches, sepulchral monuments, antiquities, mansions, and pedigrees, drawn by the exhibitor.

By Mr. Hunt (Thurnby): A fine collection of modern and ancient English and other coins, coronation medals of George I. and George IV., and several other medals.

By Mr. H. Goddard: Portion of a bridle-bit found at Smeeton Westerby, of peculiar construction; supposed, from its strength, and the control it would exercise over a powerful horse, to have belonged to the trappings of a war-horse. An ancient horse shoe, found on the site of Danett's Hall, Leicester, during the late excavations.

By Captain Whitby: A manuscript sermon found between the boards of a floor in the house in the Newarke, Leicester, formerly occupied by Mr. Pares, and recently taken down to make room for the new militia buildings. This sermon, which would occupy about fifteen minutes in its delivery, is very closely written in a most minute hand upon a half sheet of note paper of the ordinary size. It is dated at the end "Decr. 14, 1817. C. C. T. J."

By Mr. North: The following coins, found during some recent excavations on the site of Leicester Abbey:—A Roman bronze of the Emperor Magnentius (A.D. 350); obverse—DN. MAGNENTIVS. P.F. AVG.; reverse—VICTORIAE DD NN AVG CAES. In the field, two Victories standing supporting a buckler inscribed VOT. VII. Two small brasses of the Emperor Constans, A.D. 335. A groat of (presumed to be) Henry V., struck at Calais. An ancient jetton or counter; and a Melton Mowbray tradesman's token, issued in 1668 by John Brown, chandler, which is described in Mr. North's printed list of the tradesmen's tokens of Leicestershire.

Mr. North also exhibited a photograph of one of a pair of very handsome brass gas standard lights, lately placed within the altar rails of St. Martin's Church, Leicester, the gift of George Shaw, Esq., M.D., from the works of Messrs. Skidmore, Coventry. The extreme elegance and beauty of these standards elicted much commendation.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.

The Rev. T. Drake contributed the following Paper on this subject:

How shall we treat our Church windows? A great deal has been said on this subject for some years past; something, too, has been done; but the result of all can hardly be deemed satisfactory. There seems to prevail pretty generally a reasonable conviction that there is room here for the exercise of art in one of its most pleasing forms, while advantage is not taken of it in any adequate degree. Some, at least, of the glass which has been recently placed in our churches deserves a very limited amount of admiration. Something must be done. The progress of ecclesiastical architecture constrains us to make some attempt. Let any one enter a church which has been restored, and the windows filled with the glass commonly used, and then describe for himself his own sensations. The architect may have gone, but the work is not finished. He certainly ought not to have left it in such a naked state. And the dissatisfaction that arises will be all the greater in proportion to the excellence of his work. He has raised expectation, and looking to the windows, we complain of disappointment. Now, this subject seems to me to admit of division into two parts, one of which belongs to the architect—rightly belongs to him, and justly claims his attention; the other includes a different, and in this respect higher, branch of art, which he will be justified in leaving to other hands. The few remarks which I am about to make will refer to these two points, in asking first how the architect can help us? and secondly, how the artist may complete the work? 1. Mr. Poole seems to consider that a pattern window may be "the most appropriate and refined application of the glass worker's handicraft." Effect, possibly, may be given to his views, although we venture to raise our hopes a little higher. But it does seem to me that pattern windows may fill a very important part, in showing us what we can do and what we should do. In themselves they may render good service, and may also help us forward to something of a higher character. And pattern windows may surely be considered to belong to architecture as much as the tiles of the floor, or any part of the ornamentation. May we not say more so? For what is there that has more

influence in determining the general appearance of the interior of a church than the tone of light with which it is filled? If we distinguish between the artistic merits of any particular window and the general effect of softening the light in a church, we may so far discover the use of pattern windows, and see why they deserve greater attention than they receive. But to guard with the utmost caution against being misunderstood, let it not for a moment be thought that the gaudy things which have been associated with the name of pattern windows are excusable. Many of them are intolerable—not only devoid of merit, or unmeaning, but actually offensive. Like the hideous heads that sometimes disfigure the bosses of old roofs, instead of prompting or helping devotion, they set it at defiance, and reverent souls turn away from them with shame. Let them pass with all speed into oblivion, never to be revived. What I am aiming at is to submit to all church builders and restorers the general question, whether the architect should be held to have completed his work till he has determined the general character of the glass and colouring that are to be used in the church; and whether this may not be done with pattern windows. And let the matter be brought, as far as possible, within the limits of trade, that the glass manufacturer may understand that something more is expected of him; for we cannot suppose that, if he knew what was wanted, he would not endeavour to supply it. When a church is built or restored, the key-note, so to say, should be struck, with which every subsequent addition should harmonize; and then due advantage might be taken of the praiseworthy custom of placing memorial windows in it. At present it is not always easy to see how this may be done with a pleasing effect. When we go into a church and see a solitary memorial window, placed, it may be, in one of the aisles, while in the rest of the windows there is nothing but plain glass, we can at once perceive the discordant result. The window may have many things in it which are really meritorious, and we may all unite in paying respect to those who take the lead in an endeavour to banish from our churches the blank barrenness that is too common in them, but the general effect of the whole building cannot be sacrificed to a single window. Under ordinary circumstances, if there be only one painted window, it should be either the east or the west—the east, as the central point to which our attention is directed, and admitting, therefore, of exceptional decoration; or the west, as the beginning of the work, for as it is not seen during actual worship, it does not disturb devotion. But if pattern windows were introduced at once, memorial windows might be added or substituted without any fear of causing distraction of thought. Another mischief, too, might be obviated. If, under present circumstances, a good window is placed in a church, it may be spoilt by having another set beside it of a totally different style. A quiet, thoughtful

window, suggestive of devotion, may be "killed" by being next to another which has nothing observable in it, except that it flames with fiery colours. Pattern windows, judiciously chosen, might regulate the whole. It would at once easily be seen what was suitable, and harmony might be preserved here as in other parts of the building. 2. And now let us come to the other part of our subject, which relates to a higher branch of art. Here our attention is especially required, for some will hear with dismay that we are to limit ourselves to pattern windows. That there are difficulties in our way may be allowed, but it would be grievous to think them insurmountable. The first difficulty that besets us, viz., that we can hardly expect so much assistance here from the study of mediæval antiquity as in other parts of our buildings, may possibly, if taken aright, inspire hope rather than despair. This is undoubtedly a difficulty. In the structural parts of our churches we can do no better than revive the work of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. The designs of the whole buildings, and most of the details, were so excellent, that our ambition rises no higher than to reproduce them—to discern the principles which guided the ancient architects, and apply them for our own use. This may not be the case in respect of painted windows. But then, on the other hand, may not the artist help us more effectually than was ever known in older times? Was there ever a period in which Gothic architecture and painting might move on step and step, hand in hand, in such friendly companionship, rendering each other such mutual services? And do not our windows offer them an opportunity of signalizing their union with a legitimate triumph? Painting was at a low level when our best ecclesiastical edifices were raised. Let any one look at the picture in the National Gallery, of Margaritone (who died 1313, aged 77), and he may judge of the state of art in the thirteenth century. "The Brancacci Chapel was, till the time of Raphael—nearly a century—the school of all the great painters of Rome and Tuscany, Michael Angelo and Raphael included."—(*Wornum.*) Place now two dates side by side—that of Masaccio's work there (about A.D. 1425), and that of the close of the Decorative style of architecture (about A.D. 1375), and we may see a reason why the oldest windows could not have been what we should desire them to be. I will add only one date more: Raphael died A.D. 1520, aged 37. Putting these things together, and not necessarily forgetting the Perpendicular windows, we may perhaps indulge the hope that our own age may perceive its opportunity, and contribute something worthy of memory in future times. Evidently, sufficient attention has not been given to this subject. It may be reasonably supposed that many an artist who has designed a window on paper has been surprised at the result in glass. He has not to reproduce the objects of nature on an

opaque ground, but to acquire the knowledge how the glass will appear when the light shines through it; and it is no reproach to him that he has to learn this by experience, nor is it too much to presume that the highest excellence can be reached only by those who devote themselves exclusively to this as a special branch of art. There is also another point of the utmost importance, viz., what degree of opacity may be allowed in the windows, consistent with retaining light enough for the due discharge of divine worship. The remains of old glass that we meet with are generally tantalizing. There is rarely enough of it to judge of the character of the whole window to which it belonged—not to speak of the whole series of windows in the Church. Some of it is so opaque that, while we are convinced that the effect of it must have been superior to that of most, if not all, of our modern glass, we naturally ask how the church was lighted? We cannot have dark churches. It may be very solemn to pass from the busy streets of a town like Leeds into the obscurity of St. Saviour's Church, and wait till the things belonging to the service of God gradually reveal themselves to our senses, but we can scarcely desire that this example should be generally followed; for, to say no more, our service presumes that all the worshippers should see to read. A sufficiency of light must be admitted, and no doubt, even when there is no large west window to be reserved for this purpose, ways, subject to this condition, may be found of producing an artistic effect that will satisfy the purest taste. In hoping that some of the best artists may be induced to pursue this work, we may prepare ourselves for allowing them sufficient liberty to develope their ideas. Very possibly they may wish not only to contribute the painting, but to shape the whole window in which their design may appear; and this may be granted them, if only they will rule themselves by the principles of Gothic architecture. We hear, occasionally, a wish that our generation should do something more than copy the productions of earlier times. We should produce something of our own. The genuine wants of the painter's art may create a style for us. Let us not suppose that the capabilities of Gothic architecture have been exhausted; but, encouraged by the progress which we have made in the structural portion of our churches, let us try whether we cannot crown our achievements by that which will give the sweetest charm to the interior of them.

November, 28th, 1864.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Mr. North (Hon. Sec.) laid before the Committee a communication he had received from a meeting of gentlemen residing at

Melton Mowbray, held in the Corn Exchange there on the 24th instant, embodying the following resolution, "That the Leicestershire Archæological Society be invited to hold their next general meeting in Melton." Mr. North further stated that in anticipation of the Committee accepting this invitation, the gentlemen present at the meeting at Melton, had formed themselves into a local Committee (with power to add to their number) for carrying out the necessary arrangements for receiving the Society.

There being many members of the Society in Melton and its neighbourhood, it was unanimously resolved, "That the Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society receive with much pleasure the invitation of their friends in Melton Mowbray, to hold the next general meeting of this Society in that town; and it is, therefore, now further resolved, that the general meeting of this Society for the year 1865 be held in Melton Mowbray, and that the following gentlemen be requested to act as a Sub-Committee, to make—in conjunction with a local Committee to be formed at Melton—the necessary arrangements for the meeting and excursion." (Several gentlemen were placed on this Sub-Committee.)

Several additional donations towards the cost of the works now being carried on by the Society for the preservation and opening of the Jewry Wall were announced.

The following gentlemen were elected MEMBERS:—The Rev. James Armitage Bonser, St. Martin's; Mr. William Throne Crick, Leicester; the Rev. T. S. Carlyon, Glenfield (for 1865); the Rev. C. C. Coe, Leicester (for 1865).

The following ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, &c., were exhibited:—

By the REV. F. SUTTON, of Theddingworth: A watercolour drawing of the church of Church Langton, looking east, as it would appear, with a groined roof for the chancel, and the organ placed in a recess on the north side of the chancel; two items strongly recommended by Mr. Sutton in the forthcoming restoration of the fabric.

By CAPTAIN WHITBY: Drawings and ground-plan of the present church of Tur Langton, taken by the late Mr. Broadbent, in 1847.

By MR. JOHNSON, photographer, Leicester: Photographs of Brentingby Church and Hall, two interesting structures, the merits of which were well shewn by Mr. Johnson in his excellent photographs.

By MESSRS. GODDARD and SON, architects: Drawing of decorated font, with elaborate wooden canopy, about to be placed by the congregation at the west end of St. George's Church, Leicester, in memory of the late Rev. Robert Burnaby, for many years incumbent of that district; photographs of headstone and tomb lately placed in the Leicester Cemetery, from designs by the same

architects; also sketches for a headstone and memorial, both Gothic in character, and the former very simple and chaste in design.

By Mr. C. J. Lea, Lutterworth: A design for a carpet for the drawing room of Beddington House, near Croydon. This house has been decorated, and the furniture designed by Mr. Lea. Several of his sketches relating thereto were exhibited before this Society in March last, and were much admired. The carpet—the pattern of which Mr. Lea has designed—is to harmonize in colour and pattern with the walls and furniture in the rooms. The carpet will be made of the richest Axminster, the pattern being partly heraldic, with the motto of the owner, and partly floral, with an extremely rich border of elaborate design, shewing a thorough knowledge and appreciation of the harmony and great skill in the management of the contrasts of colour.

The following antiquities were exhibited:—

By the Rev. J. H. Hill: A small Roman coin, lately found at Cranoe.

By Mr. John Hunt, of Thurnby: A penny of Charles I., and a quarter guinea of George III., dated 1762.

By Captain Whitby: The larger portion of an antique pair of nut crackers, found at Warbleton Priory, Sussex; a small portion of another pair of nut crackers of similar design, found (together with two silver English coins) in clearing out what was once a moat round the Manor House at Tur Langton.

By the Rev. John Sankey: An ancient manuscript volume exhibited by that gentleman at the general meeting of this Society, at Hinckley, in July last, and now entrusted to Mr. North, in order that members might have at this meeting an opportunity of again inspecting it more leisurely. The size of the volume is ten inches by eight and a half inches, and may be divided into three parts. The first part (and the most ancient) consists of seven pages of an Office of the Church, conjectured, from the heading, to be that appointed for Corpus Christi day by Urban IV., who died in 1264. From the notation, it is thought to have been written before the year 1338. The second part (which constitutes the great bulk of the volume) consists of 397 closely written pages in the contracted Latin used in the middle ages. It appears to have been compiled for the use of the parish priests, and principally, perhaps, from the *Summa Summarum* of Raymundus, the Canons, Provincial Constitutions, and a Treatise of the Venerable Anselm "De Concordiâ Præcientiæ, Predestinatioris, et Gratiæ cum Arbitrio Libero." The work is styled by the scribe "Maximum Regimen," and is divided, as before stated, into three parts. The contents of these parts are very varied and somewhat amusing; for instance, among matters relating to doctrines and discipline, occur articles on Magna Charta and Carta de Foresta, which were signed only

about 130 years before the book was written. What add much to its interest are the facts that both the exact date of the writing of the manuscript, and the name of the scribe, are certain. At the head of the first part is the sentence abbreviated in the original:—"Incipit Liber qui vocatur Maximum Regimen, compilatus in Anno Domini M°. ccc°. xliij°."; and again, at the end of the third part, the same date is given—1343, just a century before the invention of printing. The name of the scribe, too, is equally clear. At the end of the first part, he says, "explicit prima pars hujus libri, incipiunt capitula secunda partis hujus libri: W. Beche." So again, at the termination of his work, the scribe, "Plenus Amoris," subscribes his name "Willm Beche." At the end of this principal portion of the volume are five pages of manuscript of apparently a later date, and certainly the work of a different hand. There is an "Ordinacio Johannis Peckam Cantaur Archiēpi." Although Peckham flourished at the close of the thirteenth century, his archiepiscopal acts were probably not known until given to the public about the year 1422, by Lyndewood, Bishop of St. David's.

By Mr. North: Three short cross pennies, of Henry III., in good preservation, respecting which Mr. North remarked that as there was little on the coins themselves to distinguish them from the coinage of Henry II., much had been written by learned numismatists upon the subject of their identification. As there are (or rather were, until the discovery of two hoards a few years ago,) very few coins of the undoubted reign of Henry II. in existence, owing to the country being swept clear of its money to pay the ransom of Richard I., Mr. Sainthill, in his *Olla Podrida*, and other writers in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, have inferred from that fact, and for other reasons there given, one of which will presently be seen, that the many pennies in existence similar to those now exhibited, belong to the reign of Henry III. This inference receives almost the stamp of certainty, with regard, at least, to one of the coins now exhibited, for whilst the first bears the inscription: obverse, HENRICVS REX, reverse, the moneyer's name, WALTER ON LV. (*i. e.*, Walter, of London); the second, the same obverse, with RAVF ON LVND on the reverse; the third bears on the reverse ILGER ON LVND. Now, whilst nothing is known, Mr. North observed, respecting "Walter" and "Rauf" it is known that "Ilger" was appointed one of the *custos monetæ*, by Henry III., in the sixth year of his reign (Maddox's *History of Exchequer*), which certainly goes far to prove that the coin was issued by that monarch, and not by his grandfather, Henry II.

By Mr. Wetherhead, Curator of the Leicester Museum: A singularly interesting and valuable gold poesy ring, now the property of the Leicester Museum. This finger ring, broken into

two parts, was found on the 13th of June, 1864, on a fragment of Roman pavement, between eight and nine feet deep, during excavations in the Highcross Street, Leicester, opposite the inn known as the Red Lion. The ring is a light one, weighing only fourteen grains. It is, from the style of lettering used in the inscription (there is no Hall mark), the work of the fourteenth century. The "chancon," "reason," or "posy," which appears incised on the outside of the ring, is "+ AMOR VINCIT OMNIA," an inscription of considerable interest to the reader of early English poetry, inasmuch as Chaucer, in his prologue to his Canterbury Tales, describing the dainty prioress "Madame Eglentine," says she wore a cloak full neat, on her arm a string of beads:

> "And thereon hung a brooch of gold full sheen,
> On which was first written a crowned A;
> And after *Amor vincit omnia.*"

By Mr. William Latham, Melton Mowbray: A spur, spear head, and the head (much corroded) of a small spear or arrow, lately found near a human skeleton at Clipston. The spur, as shown by the large star-like rowell, belonged to a person living early in the fifteenth century.

By Mr. Cox, Market Harborough: A Wedgwood medallion, formerly set in a ring.

Mr. James Thompson read the following paper on

THE JEWRY WALL.

Any archæologist familiar with the outlines of the Roman stations in this island, will find little difficulty in tracing on the modern map of Leicester, the line followed by three out of four of its Roman walls. It is readily perceived that on the north side, the wall ran from the site occupied by St. Margaret's Church, along Sanvy Gate and Soar Lane nearly to the river. Not more difficult is it to discover the line of the eastern wall, commencing at St. Margaret's Church and going southward up Church Gate and Gallowtree Gate to the Three Crowns Hotel. The third wall, it is equally apparent, lay along Horsefair Street and Millstone Lane, and terminated at its Southgate Street end, or a little nearer the Castle than that point.

The three lines thus given furnish the three sides of a long square, or parallelogram, and therefore we have the fourth side to look for, to complete the figure which the classical authorities define as that adopted in the formation of their encampments, by the Romans, at a certain period of their history.

When we have found the direction taken by this fourth wall, we have the four boundaries of this town, as they stood when it

was first fortified and occupied by the Romans, probably in the first century of the Christian era.

The three sides of a parallelogram being known, it is of course a mere question of measurement to produce the fourth; and thus if a line be drawn from the western extremity of the north wall near the Soar, to the supposed western extremity of the south wall (between Southgate Street and the Castle), that would be the fourth or west wall of the Roman city, in its original state.

It was the custom of the Romans to place gates in the centre of each of these walls, usually midway between the corners, so that there were gates corresponding to the four points of the compass, and the two main streets ran from gate to gate, intersecting each other in the middle of the station.

Owing to the great changes which have taken place in all English towns of Roman origin, in the lapse of fourteen hundred years, the original arrangements of walls and gates have been much altered. In sieges, the walls have been overthrown, the houses burnt, and the gates destroyed. Time has also done its work, when towns have been left desolate for several generations, and subsequently once more populated. Hence it occurs, that though the solid walls may have been rebuilt from their strong foundations—the gates may have been replaced on new sites, and the heaps of rubbish within the walls may have been levelled down and new streets formed over them in new directions.

Such was doubtless the case in Leicester; and therefore, while we have the indications of three sides of the Roman station left, as above pointed out, and the names of three of the four gates still preserved, and the name of the fourth outlet still retained in the West Bridge, we find that since the departure of the Romans, the streets and the gates have been located in other places than where they would have been, had the Roman directions and positions of them been maintained.

We should, for example, have found the Roman North Gate a little more to the eastward of what we know was its place within the last century, namely, near the Duke of Cumberland Inn; and the Roman South Gate would have stood very near the site of Messrs. Nevinson's office in Wickliffe Street; the two portals being connected by a straight street, running nearly north and south. We should have looked for the East Gate about halfway between the sites occupied by St. Margaret's Church and the Three Crowns, whereabouts the Crown and Cushion stands, in Church Gate; and for the West Gate exactly where the Jewry Wall still rears its huge and scarred frontal.

Had no relic of Roman masonry existed on this spot, it is exactly the point where an archæologist, conversant with Roman remains, would *à priori*, have expected to meet with the western

place of exit and entrance for Leicester, during the residence of the Italian conquerors of the district in the city:

First. (As we have seen) because the Jewry Wall is on the line which the western wall of Roman Leicester must necessarily have followed, and because it is midway between the north-western and south-western angles of the ancient town boundaries; and

Secondly. Because, as an outlet leading to somewhere, it is on the line which the road connecting the Roman station with the old Roman road, known as "the Fosse," must have taken in a straight direction. If we refer once more to the map, and continue the street from the point between the Cherry Orchard and the site of Danett's Hall, down to the Bow Bridge, and then direct a line to the Jewry Wall, it will occur at once to the eye that this was the route of communication before the approach was diverted to the West Bridge in a zig-zag manner.

I may here observe that the sweep taken by the Fosse Lane, along the western and northern sides of the Roman station, seems to have been intended to facilitate the progress of troops, messengers, and travellers by the place, without the necessity of entering it and stopping in it; and therefore the western entrance would only be designed for the occasional use of passengers and horsemen, and would consequently not be so wide as the entrances provided for the regular passage of troops of cavalry or bodies of infantry.

In proof of the conjecture that the road formerly went from the Jewry wall to the Bow Bridge, and so on to the Fosse, it may be stated that traces of a paved road between the Jewry Wall and the river, several feet below the present surface, have been met with in Talbot Lane.

Having thus far shown the probability that the Jewry Wall was originally the western entrance of Ratæ, let us now turn to the structure itself, and its appearances on both sides, and in the foundations, to ascertain whether they warrant the strong presumption of its having been what it is here supposed to have been.

The Jewry Wall had two faces distinctly visible, before the buildings now seen at the back of it were raised. That which is now built against and concealed, was the side which was presented in the early history of the place to the approaching visitor. It was the western face of the wall, as that we now see was its eastern face. The western face offered two openings, or entrances, each about nine feet wide, and about twenty feet high from the original level, with an interval of fifteen feet between the two arches. On the eastern side (as the visitor perceives) are four arches; but it does not appear that the two at the extreme ends of the structure were ever carried through, the two openings on the eastern side having passed through the two inner arches on the western side; though not in their centres. It has been

suggested by Mr. Henry Goddard (and I think not without reason) that the two extreme arches on the eastern side served as small guard-rooms or apartments for the sentries on duty.

Two objections have been raised to the supposition that the Jewry Wall was the original western gateway of Roman Leicester.

First. It is alleged that in all probability there was no such wall or entrance on that side; as the river protected it from sudden assault, and as the ground between the wall and the river is proved to be full of the remains of Roman buildings formerly standing there, which, it is alleged, would not have been the case had a town wall existed in the direction assumed in this paper—the supposition being that no erections would have been placed in such a position, namely, exposed outside a mural defence.

To all this it may be replied that whatever examples may exist of a contrary practice, it is certain the Romans did protect their stations on the banks of rivers by raising walls on the sides nearest to the rivers. Such was the case at York and Chester; and at the present time, the angle and part of a wall on the side nearest the Usk—a much more formidable stream than the Soar—may be seen standing at Caerleon, formerly a Roman station. I visited the site a month or two ago, and walked along the course of what remains of its ancient boundary, and there noticed the fact of the preservation of part of the wall on the side near the river. But in the case of Leicester, it seems probable the population increased during the Roman occupation, to such an extent as to induce the rulers of the place to build upon the space between the wall and the river; and, therefore, the western wall would by degrees be afterwards removed, leaving only the gateway standing.

Secondly. It is said the Jewry Wall might have been part of a Roman temple, or a Roman bath, or some other public edifice, and that the fragment now remaining is one end of such edifice; the greater portion of it having (we are told) probably stood on the site now occupied by St. Nicholas' Church.

Within the present month excavations have been made, under the management of a Committee of your Society, in the foundations of the northern end of the Jewry Wall; to such a depth as to show the exact nature of two of the piers—namely, that at the extremity, and that to the left hand, between the two arches. Now, had the building been brought forward, as conjectured, in the direction of the church adjoining, the foundations of one or both piers would have afforded evidence of the fact: on the removal of the earth, the lower courses of the walls (had they existed) would have been exhibited. But the result is the very reverse of this—the piers have been cleared of the rubbish, and show that they were distinctly finished off with two set-offs or footings, which are continuous along the sides as well as face of

the piers or buttresses. The fabric did not, then, come forward in the direction of the church.

As, in addition to the clear indications of the western side of the Jewry Wall having never been other than a wall with two openings in it, we now have the indubitable proof that the eastern side was not the end of a structure standing on the site of the church, but simply an arcade, we are shut up to the inference that it was originally a gateway solely.

This conclusion has derived additional strength from the recent examination of a part of the wall, which lies under ground, beyond the northern end of the relic now visible above ground. This seems not to have been "bonded in" the Jewry Wall itself, but the latter to have been built up against it; and it is not quite clear that the "bonding" was carried out all through the line of the underground masonry at the back of the arches; this favouring the presumption that the wall first built with two openings in it, was at some period taken down to the surface of the ground in this part, and then raised again, above a certain level, a structure of homogeneous masonry. The conclusion here arrived at respecting the Jewry Wall is further fortified by the discovery, north and south of it, at considerable distances, of portions of that which, doubtless, constituted the town wall.

To sum up: it may, I think, be now regarded as beyond controversy, that as the relic we are speaking of bore no evidences on its eastern face of being anything but a wall, and on its western face of being a row of arches merely, and not part of any building —and being in the locality where the western entrance would be most likely to be met with—the Jewry Wall was the western gateway of Roman Leicester.

The Rev. J. H. Hill then read the following paper:

BATHURST OF HOTHORPE, IN THE PARISH OF THEDDINGWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

Upon the south wall of the north chapel, in Theddingworth Church, there is a handsome monument of marble recording the death of George Bathurst, of Hothorpe, Esq., and Elizabeth, his wife, who was the third daughter and coheir of Edward Villiers, of Hothorpe, Esq. This George Bathurst was a staunch Royalist in the days of King Charles I., and had no less than six of his sons killed in battle, whilst fighting under the royal standard. The Bathursts were originally seated at Bathurst, in Sussex, but they were despoiled of their possessions in that county during the wars of the Roses. In the time of Henry VI., Laurence Bathurst resided at Cranebrook, in the county of Kent, and left three sons, Edward, Robert of Horsemanden, and John of Staplehurst.

Edward Bathurst was the ancestor of George Bathurst. This Edward Bathurst had a son called Launcelot Bathurst, an alderman of London, who at the commencement of Queen Elizabeth's reign was proprietor of the manor of Franks, in Kent. This manor fell to Randolph Bathurst, his eldest son, and his younger son, George Bathurst, the worthy cavalier of King Charles's days, married in 1610 Elizabeth Villiers, of Hothorpe, and acquiring the estate at Hothorpe in right of his wife, he settled there.

Of this marriage (as we are informed by the inscription upon the monument) there were seventeen children, thirteen sons and four daughters, viz.:—George, Edward, John, James, Ralph, Henry (ob. infant), Henry, Launcelot, Thomas, Samuel, Moses, Joseph, and Benjamin; Elizabeth, Mary, Judith, and Susanna.

It appears from the parish register that George Bathurst, Esquire, was buried April 23, 1656, and upon the same day "John Bathurst, Councilmann, the sonne of George Bathurst, was also buried at Theddingworth." Elizabeth, wife of George Bathurst, was buried six years previous to this—upon the 5th day of January, 1650. The following is the history of the thirteen sons, as far as I have been able to obtain information:—

1. George Bathurst was killed at the battle of Farringdon. Farringdon House being garrisoned for Charles I., and was one of the last places that surrendered.

2. James Bathurst, of Dublin, was also killed during the Civil Wars.

3. Ralph Bathurst, was born at Hothorpe, 1620, and was a poet, physician, and divine. He was educated at Trinity College, Oxford, where he first studied divinity, but afterwards medicine. He was employed as a physician to the sick and wounded of the navy. After the Restoration he returned to the study of divinity, and having taken orders, was appointed chaplain to the King. He was elected president of Trinity College in 1670, Dean of Wells, 1673, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, 1674, and was nominated to the see of Bristol in 1691, which he refused. He rebuilt the chapel of his college in a very elegant manner. Ralph Bathurst died 1704, and was buried in the chapel of his college. Wood accounts him a celebrated Latin poet, and Thomas Warton wrote a life of him. His works were: 1. Newes from the dead, or a true and exact narrative of the miraculous deliverance of Anne Green, who being executed at Oxford, December 14, 1650, afterwards revived. 2. A poem on the death of Mr. Selden. 3. Latin poems.

4. Edward Bathurst was presented to the living of Chipping Warden, near Banbury, by Sir Richard Saltonstate, Knight, where he resided several years, and died, very much to the regret of his parishioners, November 19th, 1688, aged 54 years. There is a monument in Latin to his memory in Chipping Warden Church.

5. Henry Bathurst was Attorney General of Munster and

Recorder of Cork and Kinsale. He lived to an advanced age, but died without issue.

6. Launcelot Bathurst, killed in the Civil War.

7. Thomas Bathurst, killed in the Civil War.

8. Samuel Bathurst, of Dublin, killed in the Civil War. He was married and had three sons.

9. Moses Bathurst married Dorothy, daughter of Dr. John Bathurst, of Leeds. He died without issue male, and was buried in Theddingworth Church, in 1701.

10. Joseph Bathurst, of Jamaica, married and had three daughters. He was supposed to have been killed in the Civil Wars.

11. John, barrister-at-law, ob. 1656.

12. Henry Bathurst died an infant.

Villiers Bathurst was Judge Advocate of the Navy in the reigns of King Charles II., King William, and Queen Mary. He died as Judge Advocate of the Navy in the reign of Queen Anne. There is a doubt as to which of the sons this Villiers was; his name is not mentioned on the monument: if he was a son of George Bathurst, as he is stated to have been, Villiers must have been his second name.

13. Sir Benjamin Bathurst was elected in Charles the Second's reign, Governor of the Royal African Company, and was Governor of the East India Company. He was afterwards Treasurer of the Household to Princess Anne of Denmark, and on her accession to the throne of England, was constituted Cofferer to Her Majesty. Sir Benjamin married Frances, daughter of Sir Allen Apsley, of Apsley in Sussex, and dying April 27, 1704, was buried at Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, leaving issue, three sons and one daughter.

1. Allen Bathurst Esq., who was advanced to the peerage as Baron Bathurst, 1711, and created Earl Bathurst, of Battlesden, county of Bedford. He married, in July 1704, Catherine, daughter and heiress of Sir Peter Apsley, by whom he had four sons and two daughters. Lord Bathurst, as a member of the legislature, actively promoted the union with Scotland, and concurred in the opposition to the Duke of Marlborough and his adherents, of which Harley and St. John were the leaders. In his private character, Lord Bathurst was generous and affable, and intimate with Pope, Swift, Prior, Rowe, Congreve, Arbuthnott, Gay, and Addison. He died 1775, at 91.

Lord Bathurst was succeeded by his eldest son, Baron Apsley, who was an eminent lawyer, and had been elevated to the peerage himself, upon being constituted Lord Chancellor of England. Previous to this he was one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas. He married twice, and by his second marriage had two sons and three daughters. He resigned the seals in 1778, and

died in 1794. It was this gentleman who sold the Hothorpe property to William Cook of Enfield. Earl Bathurst was succeeded by his eldest son, Henry, Lord Apsley, grandfather of the present highly respected and venerable peer.

2. Peter Bathurst was the second son of Sir Benjamin Bathurst; he resided at Clarendon Park, Wilts, and was a member of the House of Commons. This branch of the family is now represented by Sir Frederick Hutchinson Hervey Bathurst, Bart., of Clarendon Park, near Salisbury.

3. Benjamin Bathurst, the youngest son, married Finetta, daughter and coheir of Henry Poole Esq., of Kemble, Wilts. Secondly, Catherine, daughter of Lawrence Broderill, D.D., and he resided at Sydney Park, Gloucestershire, which he purchased from the family of Wintone. The present possessor of Sydney Park is the Rev. William Hiley Bathurst, great grandson of Benjamin Bathurst.

It is remarkable how the descendents of this loyal subject, George Bathurst, still continue to flourish amongst the aristocracy of the land.

Upon the monument in Theddingworth Church are the following arms:

Sable, two Bars Ermine, and in chief three crosses patée, Or.

Crest, a Dexter arm, embowed, habited in mail, holding in the hand, all proper, a holy water sprinkler, Or. Bathurst.

Also Bathurst impaling Villiers.

Also Bathurst impaling, two bars in chief, a lion passant gardant Gules. Burneby.

The following paper was read by the Rev. Ernest Tower at a bi-monthly meeting held on March 28th, 1864. (See page 299 of this volume.)

THE HISTORY OF EARL'S SHILTON.

On a portion of an old road which runs through Hinckley to Leicester, and which was probably used by King Richard III. in his journeys from Coventry to Leicester, the traveller of 1869 passes through the singularly long and broad street of the village of Earl's Shilton, distant nine miles from the county town. This village is called Shilton, otherwise Schelton, otherwise Shulton, otherwise Earles Shilton, as written in an apprentice indenture of 1698, in the possession of the Churchwardens, and also on an old map of the time of Queen Elizabeth, in the possession of Mr. Phillips, of Kibworth Beauchamp, and otherwise Earl's Shilton, as written by Nicholls, the county historian. Its situation is high; like "a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid." Hence its name

of Shilton, or Shil-ton, or Shelfy-town, from the Saxon "scylf," meaning a shelf, or slope, or incline, and "ton" or town. We are allowed to premise that the first families who settled here must have come over from the lower parts of Germany, and given the Saxon name to the place. If the name had been Shell-ville or Shill-well, its termination would have proved a Norman original, from the common corruption of "ville" or village into "well," as in the name of the neighbouring village of Barwell, which by a Saxon termination would have been written Bar*ton* and not Bar*well*; or *vice versâ*, as in the name of the next parish of Thurlas*ton*, which by a Norman termination would have been called Thurles-ville or Thurles-well, or perhaps Tours-ville.

Shilton may be thus accredited a place of equally good origin with its neighbours. The name Earl's Shilton allows it to rank among the nobly born! It is curious to trace the history of this honourable appendage. It originated with the holding of the manor by the ancient Earls of Leicester, who successively retained it after the Conquest till the forfeiture of the great Simon de Montfort, in 1265.

But without dilating more upon the name, it is well to give the history of the village from very early days.

Now, Nicholls in his history of Leicestershire records of the earliest tenures in the parish, that "*Five ploughlands in Sceltone, which in the reign of the Confessor had been valued at 5s., were worth seventy shillings at the general survey, when they were held by Hugo de Grantesmainell. Three ploughs were in the demesne, with one bondman; and ten villans, with a priest and four socmen and five bordars, had three ploughs. There were twelve acres of meadow, a mill of sixteen pence value, and a wood eight furlongs long and three broad.*" And again, "*That in* 1296, *the town of Shilton was held in fee of the honour of Leicester; that Edmund, Earl of Leicester, held the said town (and Kirkby and Desford) of the King, in capite, by the service of a quarter of one knight's fee, and that it paid no scutage; and that there were thirty-two virgates of land here, whereof the prior of Ware held three virgates.*"

Many of these words require to be explained.

Five Ploughlands. A ploughland was as much land as could be tilled with one plough in a year. The quantity varied materially. If the land was feeble and heavy, there went to the ploughland less, and if it was light, a greater quantity. It cannot be estimated now by the acre. Some authorities say that about one hundred acres may be taken as something like an average, whilst others mention fifty acres. No dependence, however, is to be placed in these estimates. Twelve ploughlands went to one knight's fee. One ploughland equalled four virgates. So that "thirty-two virgates" would be equal to eight ploughlands, or a

rise in the value of land in two hundred and fifty years of two for one.

VILLAN, or *villein*, or *villain*, meant much the same as serf. That portion of the population which was employed in cultivating the soil were called villeins *(villani)* regardant or appurtenant to the manor *(ad manerium spectantes, regardantes)*, and incapable of being removed from it; or villeins in gross, the *servi* or slaves of Domesday Book. The former class could acquire property, and make wills, and if permitted, purchase their freedom; in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, they gradually became copyholders. The villeins in gross, or pure villeins, might be alienated at pleasure and be sold in the market; but they seem to have had a right to purchase property, and they were never numerous in England.

Again, "ONE BONDMAN." The bondman differed little from the villein: he was a kind of serf-farmer, to whose management the lord committed a part of his estate, if he did not wish to cultivate it himself, and from whom the lord required an account of the produce.

"A BORDAR," from "bord" or wooden, was a cottager under the soc-man or freeholder. A "SOC-MAN" was the tenant of the "soc," which was a power or liberty of jurisdiction or lordship endowed by the King, with liberty of holding a court of such tenants. Their tenure was called socage. The word "sockman" is used by Baily as a synonym for freeholder.

The "*General Survey*," was, of course, that which the Conqueror made of his newly acquired territories, and called "Domesday Book," commenced in 1081, and completed in 1086, five justices being appointed to take it in each county. It was a general survey of all the lands in the kingdom, their extent in each district, their proprietors, tenures, value; the quantity of meadow, wood, arable, and pasture land, which they contained; and in some counties, the number of tenants, cottagers, and slaves of all denominations who lived upon them.

"*A Mill of sixteen pence value*" was literally a mill of little value, even when compared with the value of other mills of that day. It must have been a small watermill in the brook which divides Earl's Shilton from Kirkby Mallory (there being no water elsewhere), or a windmill. A common Saxon handmill could not have been of so much value as 16d. Its being a windmill must depend upon the time of windmills coming into being, which seems uncertain.

"*Land valued at five shillings was worth seventy shillings at the general survey.*" If for shillings we read pounds weight of silver, we have an approximate value of money in that day as compared with our own.

The whole of the above passage in Nicholls may be taken to

mean,—that less than one-fourth of the Parish was under cultivation at the time of the Conquest; that the lord retained his demesne land, with one bondman to look after it, with three lord's ploughs at his disposal to till it, each lord's plough being drawn with four oxen; and that the lord gave a part of his estate to ten copyholders (with a priest, &c.), who had three common ploughs to cultivate their portion, each copyholder's plough being drawn by two oxen. The rest of the Parish was heath, wood, and meadow. The value of the land was immensely increased; first, under the proprietorship of its Norman lord; and again, in 1296, when the five ploughlands had become eight.

But in order to understand these antiquated phrases we ought to realize the fact that from the commencement of those early days, all the land in the kingdom was supposed to be held mediately or immediately of the King, who was styled the "lord paramount," or above all. Tenants who held under the King immediately, were also lords with respect to those to whom they granted portions of their land; and thus coming between the King and their inferiors, they were called *mesne* or middle lords. So that if the King granted a manor to A, and he granted a portion of the land to B, B was said to hold of A, and A of the King; or in other words, B held his lands immediately of A, but mediately of the King. The King was the lord paramount; A was the middle lord; and B was the tenant *paravail*, or the lowest tenant, who was supposed to make avail or profit of the land. Thus there were tenures held of the mesne or middle lord, but also of the King; and there were tenures held under the King himself in right of his crown. These latter were, of course, the most honourable, and were called the King's tenants *in capite* or in chief, and they had the privilege of being subjected to more burdensome services than the inferior tenants were. But the services due from the inferior tenant to the middle lord were also burdensome. They were either *free* services or *base* services. *Free* services were such as belonged to the soldier or the freeman; as to serve under the lord in the wars, to pay a sum of money, and the like. *Base* services belonged to peasants, or others of a servile rank; as to plough the lord's land, to make his hedges, to carry out his dung, or other mean employments. There were also *certain* services and *uncertain* services. The *certain* services, whether free or base, were such as could not be either stinted or exceeded on any pretence; as to pay a stated annual rent, to plough such a field for three days, &c. The *uncertain* services depended upon emergencies; as to do military service in person, or to pay an assessment in lieu of it when called upon; or to wind a horn whenever the Scots invaded the realm, and the like. There was also that other kind of service, called "knight service," to make up the tenure of which a determinate quantity of land

was necessary, which was called a "knight's fee," the value of which, not only in the reign of Edward II., but probably in the time of the Conqueror, was stated at £20. per annum. And any one who held this proportion of land (or a whole fee) by knight's service, was bound by way of return or rent for the land he claimed, to attend his lord to the wars for forty days in every year if called upon. If, however, he held only half a knight's fee, he was only bound to attend twenty days, and so in proportion. But as personal attendance in knight's service soon grew troublesome and inconvenient, the tenants discovered means of compounding for it; and so we find that they either sent others in their stead, or they paid in lieu a pecuniary satisfaction to the lord: which satisfaction was levied by assessment at so much every knight's fee, and denominated a "scutage;" (*scutum* being a well known word for money). Hence we may understand the expression "*paid no scutage*" to mean that the land was free of military service.

But we will mention somewhat more in detail about the Norman Baron Hugo de Grantmaisnell, the first great proprietor here of whom we have any record. He was the friend and companion in arms of the great William de Warren, who married Gundrada, the daughter of William the Conqueror, and was so lavishly remunerated for his services with enormous possessions in the north, as De Warren was in the south of England. He was also High Steward or Seneschal of England during the reigns of Kings William Rufus and Henry I., and last, though not least, Baron of Hinckley. Few parishes about this neighbourhood but preserve his name in their early history. It is stated that the Conqueror gave him sixty-seven Lordships in Leicestershire. Yet without searching distant places for a list of his properties, he possessed "three houses in the town of Leicester belonging to Sceltone" in addition to the manor. His successors had also a sub-castle situated near the present church on his demesne lands in the parish where the bondman, or serf-farmer, or steward lived.* The lord himself resided at his great castle at Hinckley. But alas for his riches! Like other great Norman lords of his day, he lacked enjoyment of the estates he held by the sword. We are told that satiated with honours and wealth, he retired to the monastery of St. Ebrulph, which he had founded at Utica in Normandy; and that there having assumed the habit of a monk he died; and that he was buried in the chapel of that abbey. To wipe away the stains of his Norman oppressions over the poor dispossessed

*In the Domesday Survey, in the enumeration of Hugo de Grantmaisnell's possessions at Shilton, the term "*servus*" occurs where the word "*bondman*" is used in the copy of the entry in Nicholls, Curtis, and others. As the custody of the sub-castle could hardly be entrusted to a "*servus*," we may believe that residence to have been built by the successors of Hugo de Grantmaisnell.

Saxons in Leicestershire, and also to shine as a benefactor to the monks of the house of his retreat, he gave the monastery "*duas garbas decionarum*" (two sheaves of tythe) in his demesne lands at Shilton, "*et totam decimam garbarum de novis assartis*" (all the tythe of sheaves or tythe of corn and grain of new grubbed or reclaimed lands).

We can now trace the origin of church property in this parish. It was an object for the pious mind or the satiated but repentant worldling, to become the founder of a monastery cell or church. Christianity had a great deal of rough Norman life to contend with. In those days it had not saturated society with its meek and quiet spirit; it was still a profession of the comparative few; and as it was regarded quite separate from mixing with the wars and sins of the world, its influence was brought to bear upon society by the mystery which attaches to seclusion, rather than by the public raising of its voice from the open housetop. At the time Hugo de Grantmaisnell founded the monastery of St. Ebrulph, no one knew better than he the need of some asylum or refuge from the oppressions of those very Norman laws which he had done so much to establish. In one of his repentant moments he set up that peculiar institution in Normandy, which was meant to be both a refuge for those oppressed by war, and a sanctuary for all desirous of devoting themselves to the religious life under the shadow of the Cross. But a monastery was not complete unless it offered its advantages to a considerable district of country. So we find that to this monastery of St. Ebrulph, Hugo de Grantmaisnell gave large possessions in England and France. He required services both religious and secular to be observed throughout them. There were priories, and cells, and convents, all more or less attached to the chief monastery in Normandy, and superintended by the Lord Abbot.

Thus, amongst other gifts, Hugo de Grantmaisnell gave the Church of Ware, with the tithes thereto belonging, to the Abbey of St. Ebrulph, which thenceforward became a cell to that foreign establishment. And as the priory of Ware became the principal cell, and the prior of Ware the Proctor General in England for the affairs of that foreign monastery, the priory of Ware held the lands above mentioned in this Parish in the name of the foreign abbey. This system continued till 1415, when on the dissolution of the Alien Priories, the property possessed here by the monks was transferred to a monastery in England, namely, the priory of Jesus of Bethlehem, at Shene.

But to return to the history of the Manor. When Hugo de Grantmaisnell died, his enormous property was divided between two daughters, heiresses. The first, "Parnell," who was given in marriage to Robert Blanchmaines, or whitehanded, the then Earl of Leicester, who inherited through her the High Stewardship of

England, and "Alice," wedded to Roger Bigot. Robert Blanchmaines died in the expedition of King Richard I. to the Holy Land, and was succeeded by his son Fitz-Parnell (a name taken from his mother Parnell). Fitz-Parnell died childless in the time of King John, and was succeeded, both in the enjoyment of the property and of the titles of Earl of Leicester and High Seneschal of England, by the great Simon de Montfort, who, though a base son of Robert, King of France, had been fortunate enough to marry the sister of Robert Fitz-Parnell.

Thus we may trace how the Manor of Shilton descended to the ancient Earls of Leicester, from whom it derived the name of Earl's Shilton. It was held by them till the forfeiture of Simon de Montfort, in 1265, when it came into the hands of Henry III, by whom it was demised *inter alia* to his eldest son Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, in 1272. From that time to the present it has ever remained with the descendants of that King, and is still a part and parcel of the property of the Duchy of Lancaster, or in other words, of Queen Victoria as Duchess of Lancaster by inheritance.

Nicholls says on this head:—"In 1297 it was found that Edmund Earl of Lancaster, the King's brother, at the time of his death, held the Manor of Shilton."

"By 26 Edw. I. Shilton was part of the dowry of Blanche." [This Blanche was the second daughter of Henry Duke of Lancaster, who succeeded her elder sister Maud, the wife of William Duke of Bavaria, in the possession of the Manor of Shilton, held of the King *in capite* upon her decease in 1362. She was married to John of Gaunt, who, through his wife's right, entered into possession of Maud's property, and whose successors quarter the royal arms of England, the sovereigns of Spain and Saxony, the Emperors of the Brazils and of Austria, and the late King of Naples and Grand Duke of Tuscany.]

"In 1327 it was found that Thomas Earl of Lancaster at the time of his death held the Manor of Shilton of Edw. II., as parcel of the parcel of the Castle of Leicester." [This Thomas of Lancaster was the unfortunate man who was beheaded in 1323, at Pontefract, for rebellion.]

In 1361 it was found that Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster, died seized of a tenth part of one knight's fee in Shilton, which John de Neld then held. In the same year, it was also found that the same nobleman at the time of his death held the Manor of Shilton; also, two views of frankpledge there."

[This Henry, son of Edmund Crouchback, was the third Earl of Leicester and Lancaster united. He succeeded his unfortunate brother Thomas by special permission of the King. On his succession he visited the neighbourhood of Leicester. At Shilton Castle presents were made to him by the burgesses of Leicester,

as the accounts of the borough of Leicester show. The Mayor (John of Norton) also, in company with members of the Council, proceeded to Shilton to pay the homage they owed to their feudal lord on his accession to the title and his possessions, or (to use the language of the roll) they went to have a colloquy with him.

["Two views of frankpledge." Hallam tells us that every freeman above the age of twelve years was required to be enrolled in some tything or division of a county. In order to enforce this essential part of police the Courts of the Sheriff and Leet were erected or separated from the county. The periodical meetings of these to enquire into the state of the tythings were called the "views of frankpledge." Perhaps, "two views of frankpledge," mentioned by Nicholls, refer to the inquiries of the Courts Baron and Leet in the Parish, and not to the Sheriff's Court or tourn.]

"In 1444, in the marriage settlement of King Henry VI., it was found that that King gave to his intended Consort the Manor and bailiwick of Shulton."

"In 1480, it was found that Sir William Trussell, Knight, died seized of one messuage with the appurtenances in Shilton, held of the prior and convent of Titley, by the service of finding a certain bailiff to keep the King's Court, called the Castle Court, at Leicester."

In our own day the Manor has been rented again and again of the Crown by persons entitled "lords in trust." The last lease was made in 1849, for the term of thirty-one years, to the Right Honourable Lady Noel Byron and her heirs. The holding of the Manor is very peculiar. The Queen, as Duchess of Lancaster, is the ultimate owner; and the only property now remaining to the Crown from the Manor is £1. a year, or thereabouts, the nominal value of the sale of the lease. There are some fees payable to the Crown contingent upon any copyhold land being enfranchised and becoming freehold. The copyholders have all the rights of the Manor reserved to themselves, and they have the right also of electing the lessee. From the existing lease it appears that they chose the late Lady Noel Byron.

The Court Leet of the Manor still holds a lingering existence. Twenty-five townships in the neighbourhood nominally belong to it.

The principal object of antiquarian interest in the Parish is the Castle Mound. Burton, who wrote 1620, says "the Earls of Leicester had here a castle, now ruinated and gone; yet the place where it stood is to this day called the 'Castle yard.' We have only to look at the raised garden ground attached to Mr. Wright's farm, and the remains of the dry moat, to be sure of its existence. It was probably one of the castles erected in the time of Stephen; and was little, if anything, more than a tower and a small building to the west, very similar to one of the border towers or peel houses

in Northumberland. It served as a sub-castle to the great Baron's Castle at Hinckley; and was used for the purpose of protecting the lord's property in the parish, and for watching over the surrounding country, as it would be fit to do, its elevated situation being considered. It afforded some kind of accommodation suitable for a man of rank, or it would not have been resorted to by the Earl of Leicester and Lancaster in 1324. It was probably destroyed in the fifteenth century, during the Wars of the Roses, which were carried on with great fury in this particular neighbourhood.

The tower or castle keep evidently rose from the present mound, and there is little doubt that a well once full of water might be discovered near that central spot. The garrison when besieged could not have held out in their last place of refuge without it.*

The chapel adjoining the castle, in 1324, would be a principal feature of the residence. It stood beside it; and, unless an earlier structure preceded that which has been so lately replaced by the present newly erected edifice, was built about the commencement of the fourteenth century. The dedication of the Parish Church to the name of S.S. Simon and Jude or St. Peter argues a comparatively late foundation, such names being given to none of the earlier churches in the country, which were generally named after local saints, as St. Botolph, St. Helen, St. Edith, &c. The wake feast seems to have been always kept at the recurrence of the Festival of S.S. Simon and Jude, in the month of October.

It is impossible accurately to trace the origin of the connection between Earl's Shilton and Kirkby Mallory. Perhaps it was one of convenience in the person of some particular parish priest or minister, at the time of the Reformation, when by custom and law the two parishes became united.

Since 1854 Earl's Shilton has come under an order of the Queen in Council, and has been constituted a new parish for ecclesiastical purposes separate from Kirkby Mallory.

The Stocking Trade of the Place.—In 1552, as we learn from the Parish Registers commenced at that date by Act of Parliament, the population was very small indeed; only one marriage, three burials, and seven baptisms were celebrated in the Parish Church. In 1589 the numbers were:—Fourteen baptisms,

* In the introduction to Burton's "Description of Leicestershire" the author enumerates Leicester, Mountsorrel, Whitwick, and *Shilton*, as castles founded by Robert, Earl of Leicester. If (says Mr. Thompson, to whom I am indebted for this note,) the Robert, Earl of Leicester, here referred to be the same person as he who built the Castle of Leicester (as alleged), it would be Robert le Bossu—living between 1118 and 1167; consequently, in the reign of Stephen, when so many castles were erected by royal license. We may safely infer, then, that Shilton Castle was erected in this period.

two burials, one marriage. In that same year the invention* of the stocking frame, which has so marvellously influenced the population, owed its origin to the Rev. W. Lea, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Curate of Calverton, Notts. That clergyman, so the story goes, was enamoured of a young lady whom he always found knitting whenever he visited her, and much more attentive to that occupation than to anything he could say. In a spirit of momentary playfulness or revenge, he declared he would invent a machine that would altogether supersede the utility of her employment. He kept his word, and after years of incessant toil, he invented the stocking frame about the year 1589. But his success was little. Notwithstanding he obtained the notice first of Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have visited him at work in his frame, and secondly of Henry IV., of France, in Paris, his trials were too much for him. Dr. Howell relates in his "History of the World:" "That Queen Elizabeth, in the third year of her reign, was presented with a pair of black knit silk stockings by her silk woman, Mrs. Mountague." So Lea had to bear Elizabeth's expression of disappointment that he was not making silken stockings but worsted, which were too rough for her Majesty to wear; then the news of her death, without a reward being given him for his ingenuity; and then of the assassination of King

* This invention of the stocking frame must not be regarded as the origin of the use of knit stockings. The following extracts from Anderson's "History of Commerce," give the best history of the knit hose which can be found anywhere:—

"1547. Mezeray, speaking of the reign of Francis' successor, Henry II., alleges that silk was still dear and scarce in France. This Prince, according to him, was the first who wore a pair of silk knit stockings.

"1561. The eminent author, Dr. Howell, adds: 'That King Henry VIII.—that magnificent and expensive Prince—wore ordinarily cloth hose, except there came from Spain, by great chance, a pair of silk stockings, for Spain very early abounded in silk. His son, King Edward VI., was presented with a pair of long Spanish silk stockings by his merchant, Sir Thomas Gresham, and the present was then much taken notice of.' Thus it is plain that the invention of knit silk stockings originally came from Spain. Others relate that one William Rider, an apprentice on London Bridge, seeing at the house of an Italian merchant a pair of knit worsted stockings from Mantua, from thence ingeniously made a pair exactly like them, which he presented to William, Earl of Pembroke, and were the first of that kind worn in England. Anno 1564.

"1589. Lee invented the stocking frame twenty-eight years after we had first learned from Spain the method of knitting them by wires or needles. Mr. Lee's invention enabled England in after times to export vast quantities of silk stockings to Italy, &c., where it seems (by Sir Josiah Child's excellent "Discourses on Trade," first published in 1670,) they had not then got the use of the stocking frame, though little short of one hundred years after its invention. Yet Dr. Howell in his "History of the World" (vol. II., p. 222), makes this invention eleven years later, viz., Anno 1600; and adds that Mr. Lee not only taught this art in England and in France, but his servants did the same in Spain, Venice, and in Ireland.

"1660. An Act of Parliament prohibited the exportation of live sheep, wool, woollen yarns, upon the forfeiture thereof. A clause was, however, added in behalf of the Isles of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark, by granting them license annually to export thither 3,300 tods of unkemed wool: which license, it is said, gave birth to the great stocking trade of those Isles, and thereby sunk the stocking manufacturer of Somersetshire and some other parts of England."

Henry of France. He died of a broken heart in Paris, in the year 1610. What a sad presage of the frequent misery of those employed in this trade! And what a commentary on a clergyman who abandons the duties of his heavenly calling for a secular trade! Mr. Lea's invention certainly proved a wonderful benefit to the stocking manufacturer. It enabled England in after times to export its hosiery to Italy and other countries, where so late as 1670 framework knitting had not been learnt. Lea's memory may also take credit for teaching the art through his servants who followed him into Spain, Venice, and Ireland. But an improvement upon Lea's frames was soon discovered, and the consequence was that the framework knitters increased so rapidly in the country that they formed themselves into a London company, and obtained a charter from Charles II., in 1663. They adorned themselves with a flag to do honour to their founder by bearing thereon for arms the stocking frame, with supporters, a clergyman in his Cambridge gown, and a woman in the costume of 1665. I would express at this place the pleasure it would give me to see the old arms of the Framework Knitters' Company emblazoned in a painted window in our Church.

This company gave great encouragement to manufacture in this part of Leicestershire. All persons who served a seven years' apprenticeship in the trade were reckoned of the company, and the number of these apprentices from Leicestershire were very great. They returned to Leicestershire after their apprenticeship in London, and brought the trade with them. This will explain the object of Sir Verney Noel's charity (1694), which was founded in this Parish for "putting out poor children apprentices to London."

The motto of the company was "Speed, strength, and truth united." But alas, for its members. "As poor as a stockinger" soon became a proverb in the country. And it is recorded by Anderson, in his "History of Commerce," that amongst the "deserted companies," being obsolete joint stock corporations, which were so sunk that they bore no price at all in 1720—the time of the South Bubble—this company was ranked.

In 1611, the year which followed that of Mr. Lea's death, there came a dreadful visitation upon the Parish, as if to mark the very commencement of the trade with the fulness of melancholy. Nicholls says that at the time the plague raged at Leicester forty-one persons died at Shilton. I cannot certify, however, from the Parish Register this exact number of deaths. According to the Register it is evident that some great mortality befell the people. The deaths in 1611 were twice those in any preceding or immediately subsequent year. But the entries stand thus:—

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1607	18	4	9
1608	26	2	13
1609	16	1	13
1610	11	5	11
1611	15	4	21!!
1612	20	4	12
1613	15	4	8
1614	23	2	5
1615	15	4	17
1616	18	2	3
1617	20	1	4
1618	14	0	3

By casting the eye over the names recorded, the sad tale of wife and children being taken away, and of one entire family being swept off by some disease or other, is plainly to be read:—

William Thomas and his wife were	buried 21 April.
Alexander Thomas	buried 28 April.
John Thomas, son of William,	buried 18 May.
Another John Thomas	buried 25 May.
Also, William Goodall, son of Samson,	buried 9 May.
Richard Goodall, son of Samson,	buried 10 May.
Anna Goodall, daughter of Samson,	buried 9 May.
Maria Goodall, another daughter,	buried 1 June.
Anna Goodall, wife of Samson,	buried 8 June.

And it is singular, there is a double entry of some of these burials, the only instance of the kind throughout the Register books. Perhaps the Curate, William Houldsworth, re-entered the names on purpose, in order to mark so unusual an event; or probably he was absorbed by the calamity, and repeated his own writing by mistake.

But in the whole history of the trade no distress has ever befallen it of so terrible a character as that of 1862-3, during the Cotton Famine. Whilst the claims of Lancashire were everywhere urged upon the benevolent public at that period, the framework knitters of this place lifted their own feeble voices in an appeal for themselves and their families. The distress caused by the Cotton Famine was probably as great here as elsewhere. But from the fact that the poor of the locality had never known the prosperity of Lancashire, their endurance was not so severely tried as in the northern county, although their condition was equally deserving of help. Several thousand pounds were afforded by the charitable to the sufferers in the Hinckley district, to which this Parish was attached, for purposes of relief; and in addition to the above money gratuitously offered from the purses of distant persons, no less a sum than £800. and more was

forwarded in small sums towards the use of the unemployed cotton frames for the benefit of the poor who could work worsted instead of cotton. About 1,200 of the inhabitants of this village were at one moment without employment; and amongst other works which these were set to do was the permanently useful one of road making in the direction of Elmsthorpe Station, on land given by the Right Honourable the Earl of Lovelace and his daughter, The Lady Anne Noel.

Owing to this great liberality towards us in our time of need, it is worthy of record that our poor rates during 1862 and 1863 were not so heavy as we might have expected. In the former year they amounted to 4s. 4½d. in the pound, in the latter to 6s. 6½d. Indeed, when we compare the poor rates of previous times under the old Poor Law, and even those demanded during the last twelve months (3s. 10d. in the pound), with those of 1862 and 1863, we ought to be grateful in recollecting the favours bestowed on us as ratepayers during those two years of famine. How the farmers and ratepayers generally managed to bear the burdens of the parish poor before 1834, it seems at this day impossible to conceive! In 1801 the population was 1,300; in 1811, 1533; in 1821, 1771. And yet the poor rates paid to the overseers from Easter, 1804, to Easter, 1805, being fifty-four weeks, amounted to £1,078. 3s. 6¼d.; from Easter, 1805, to Easter, 1806, being fifty-one weeks, to £994. 7s. 9½d.; from Easter, 1810, to Easter, 1811, being fifty-one weeks, to £1,566. 10s. 0½d.; from Easter, 1811, to Easter, 1812, being fifty weeks, to £943. 18s. 10d.; from Lady Day, 1818, to Lady Day, 1819, to £1,272. 18s. 10d.; from Lady Day, 1819, to Lady Day, 1820, to £1,713.; from Lady Day, 1820, to Lady Day, 1821, to £1,544. 19s. 10d. A levy of one shilling in the pound, under the present valuation of property in the Parish, amounts to £225. or thereabouts, whilst the population is now upwards of 2,200. Thanks are due to improved Parliamentary legislation!

The Benefactions to the Parish.—About 1694, Sir Verney Noel, Bart., left £100.; and Henry Noel, Esq., a similar sum, to the Minister and Churchwardens of Earl's Shilton, for the apprenticing poor male children born in Earl's Shilton to London or elsewhere.

T. Davenport left £50. to the Rector of Kirkby Mallory and the Churchwardens of Earl's Shilton to lay out in land, the rents whereof to be distributed in bread amongst the poor of Earl's Shilton. Date of Davenport's will, October 13th, 1733.

Thomas Sutton left £5., the interest to be distributed yearly in penny bread to sixty poor persons, by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor.

The information respecting the property of the charities is chiefly to be obtained from the Enclosure Commissioners Award of 1778.

Before 1779 the only old enclosure belonging to these charities is one small field of two roods and thirty-three perches, now rented by Mr. John Elliott, and described in the Award as belonging to the Rector of Kirkby Mallory and the Churchwardens of Earl's Shilton, being Trustees for putting out poor children of Earl's Shilton apprentices.

In 1779 the Enclosure Commissioners created a "new charity" by awarding to the poor of the Parish, in lieu of "common rights in fern cutting," the four fields called "Poor Close," "Near Poor's Meadow," "Narrow Meadow," and "Middle Meadow." The Trustees of this new charity were Lord Viscount Wentworth and his successors, as patrons of the Church; Charles Boothby Skrymsher and his successors in the Tooley Park estate; the Rector of Kirkby Mallory and the Churchwardens of Earl's Shilton for the time being. The rents and profits of this new charity are to be applied in placing out children of Earl's Shilton apprentices, and for the benefit of the industrious poor not receiving collection from the township of Earl's Shilton, in such proportions, or wholly to either of the said uses, as the Trustees of the said land for the time being for ever, or the major part of them, shall from time to time in their discretion think most proper.

The same Enclosure Commissioners awarded four fields called "Townland Meadow," "Townland Close," "Barn Close," and "Old Close," to the Rector of Kirkby Mallory and the Churchwardens of Earl's Shilton for the time being, for placing children of Earl's Shilton apprentices, in favour of the two Noel gifts as above, according to received supposition.

At the same time land purchased with the £55. of Davenport and Sutton was exchanged for land in a field called the "Breach," but which originally was three small fields; the first of 2a. 3r. 23p., for the purchase of bread; the second of 3a. 2r. 0p., also for bread, but of which 1a. 3r. 7p. is kept for putting out poor apprentices, but this again subject to the payment of 17s. per annum, supposed to be the estimated interest of Goodacre's £20. to the Overseers to pay for schooling poor children. The Rector of Kirkby Mallory and the Churchwardens of Earl's Shilton were the Trustees of these charities.

As the Mother Parish of Kirkby Mallory, which received church rates from Earl's Shilton for the repair of one side of Kirkby Mallory Church, was divided in 1854, and Earl's Shilton was constituted a separate incumbency, the administration of these charities was transferred, in 1860, to the Incumbent of Earl's Shilton and others, by order of the Board of Charity Commissioners, through the Judge of the Hinckley County Court.

A benefaction to the minister of the Parish is thus recorded on a stone tablet in the Church:—"Sir Verney Noel, Bart., late of Kirkby Mallory, deceased, did, to fulfil the desire of his brother,

William Noel, Esq., by his deed dated the 10th day of July, in the sixteenth year of Charles II., give and allow ten pounds per annum unto the Vicar or Curate and his successors for the time being, who shall celebrate Divine Service and preach in the Chapel of Earl Shilton, as an augumentation to the said Vicar or Curate's revenue, which money is paid out of a farm in Congerstone, in this county; and Sir Beaumont Dixie, Bart., and John Stafford, Esq, are the Trustees."

Alderman Newton's Charity.—Gabriel Newton, Gent., late of the Borough of Leicester, gave by deed dated March 15th, 1760, to the Parish of Earl's Shilton the yearly sum of £20. 16s. 0d., to be appropriated towards clothing and educating twenty boys.

Thomas Goodacre's Charity.—"Thomas Goodacre, of Earl Shilton, did by his last will and testament give £20. and the interest for ever to the chief school in Earl Shilton for the teaching so many poor children to read as the aforesaid sum of money would compass."

Thomas Ison's Charity.—Thomas Ison, baker, died 1833, gave by will a sum of £100., the interest thereof to be appropriated to the purchasing of bread, which is to be distributed to the poor every Easter Monday annually for ever. Also, the sum of £20., one-half of the interest thereof to be given to the choir, and the other to the benefit of the Church Sunday School.

Burley Scott's Charity.—Burley Scott, of Carlton, Nottinghamshire, gave by will £100. towards maintaining the Church Sunday School at Earl Shilton.

The Lady Noel Byron gave by deed under Trustees, in 1854, the sum of £500., the interest thereof to be given to the minister of the Parish.

The Reeves of the Parish.—These are proprietors and occupiers of certain messuages called Reeves' Houses, and also of certain pieces of land where Reeves' Houses formerly stood, from the occupiers of which premises a Reeve is chosen yearly by ballot at the general Court Baron, whose office it is for the time being to collect and pay the Chief or Fee Farm rents half yearly; to empannel a Homage Jury, whenever required by the Lord or Lady of the Manor or their steward; for which the Reeve has the privilege, during the time of his office, of occupying or letting a meadow containing about seven acres, called the Reeve's piece, on which he enters at St. Thomas's Day, subject to Parliamentary and Parochial payments. The Fee Farm rents belonged originally to the Crown, but were sold by King Charles I. to the ancestors of the Earl of Ilchester, who gives their yearly value, it is believed, to one of the London hospitals.

There is an old Benefit Club still existing, which was established June 8th, 1747. As an instance of its usefulness, one member, William Wade, became blind, and continued receiving the allowances

of the Society without intermission for forty years. He thus received £337., in sums varying from 3s. to 7s. 6d. weekly. As an instance of its abuse there was paid in 1809, May 27th, for ale drunk on a Feast day, £5. 12s. 0d.; and in 1820, so much as £6. 1s. 6d.!!!

Consumption of ale forms part of another Parish account. Daniel Marvin, Overseer of the Poor, 1755, charges 5s. upon the poor rates for ale at the burial of a PAUPER'S body!

We will pursue our history no farther. It has been imperfectly written. Many things have been omitted which might have been added. It aims, however, at being more correctly a history of the past than of the present. For ourselves, we have enough to do to realize that the after course of the Parish rests much with us. The respectable old families, whose names recur for two or three hundred years in the Parish Registers, will continue, we hope, prospering and to prosper. And the natural desire which suggests itself, as regards the manufacturers and the stocking weavers, who make up the staple population of the place, is the earnest one that they may always live together as "brother-men," and never strike again, as in years past, against each other. The strikes of 1853 and 1859 teach us a lesson which we may not forget without danger. It is quite possible for masters to strike against the men in the wages they give, as for the men to strike against the masters for the wages they would fain receive. The miserable struggle, which the slightest difference between the two classes creates, had better not be entered upon by either. Excess of obedience and forbearance is not to be expected from hungry men; and the prosperous continuance of a trade is not to be expected for the particular warehouse of a master who determines to pay to his workpeople less wages than his neighbours. It is well that the demands of the workpeople should be attended to at once, and the wages they demand paid in full, or that their employment should be stopped by a mutual understanding among the masters. This is the only fair course for masters and workpeople to take, in order to ward off or end a strike. Happy is it for both parties when this course is followed! Its adoption argues something more than common sympathy between the employers and the employed. It is the only course which can form an inseparable bond between the giver and receiver of wages, because it is based upon justice and equity. The strikes of 1853 and 1859 will only be remembered, we trust, as warnings to prevent mischief for the time to come. And the bitter distress of 1862-3, will never be forgotten, we trust, as being a time which hastened a better and more affectionate feeling between classes intimately connected with each other. There is always a triumph for the cause of Christ, that is, of Christianity, when masters learn to be thoroughly merciful and liberal, and workmen learn to be thoroughly unselfish.

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END OF VOLUME II.

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PREFACE.

THE completion of Volume II. of the Transactions of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society gives an opportunity of expressing the hope that the preservation of Papers read before the Society, and the registration of Antiquities, &c., shewn at its meetings, by means of these pages, have proved acceptable to the members.

The Society should be the centre for the County of all things that can aid in forwarding the objects, and in advancing the studies, for the encouragement of which it was formed.

The bi-monthly meetings should be, as they are now to some extent, the opportunities used for communicating topographical, historical, architectural, and antiquarian information from the various parishes in the County; then it is conceived these volumes of Transactions would be of no mean value to students generally, and specially to future historians of Leicestershire.

Bearing this in mind, the least valuable of the information contained in the following pages will appear worthy of preservation.

Each writer is responsible for his own Paper.

THOMAS NORTH,

HONORARY SECRETARY.

Leicester,
February, 1870.

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